GIFT OF TARAWEEH

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BY

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TRANSLATION EDITED BY

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GIFT OF TARAWEEH

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Preface

All Praise is due to Allaah, Durood and Salaam upon Nabi Muhammad (Salaahi alaahi wasalaam) upon whom was revealed

Allaah's last book. The Quraan –e- Kareem, upon which the Sahabah (Raadhi Allaahu Taala alaahim ajameen) lived to gain the pleasure of Allaah.

The "Gift of Taraweeh" will aid the musalles and the followers of Taraweeh to have an overview of what is going to be recited in the Taraweeh Salaah on each night of Ramadhaan.

Moulana Abdur Raheem Falahi has divided the recitation of the Quraan in the following manner :-

1.) **From the 1ST Taraweeh up to the 16TH Taraweeh, 1 ½ paras are recited nightly**
2.) **From the 17TH Taraweeh up to the 25TH Taraweeh ,1 para is recited nightly**
3.) **In the 26TH Taraweeh a little more than ½ of the 30TH Para is recited then**
4.) **Recitation of the Quraan is concluded in the 27TH Taraweeh.**

May Allaah reward Moulana Abdur Raheem abundantly and grant him a long life. (Ameen)

We have made a further division by indicating denoting where the 1st Para starts and ends and making known thereafter where each subsequent para ends up to the 20TH para. Then as per Moulana's summary and division the 21ST para starts in the 17TH Taraweeh. From then on up to the 25TH Taraweeh one (1) Para is recited nightly.
May the Creator accept our efforts.

A.H.ELIAS (MUFTI) 1423 HIJRI/ 2002

The Gift of Taraaweeh

Dedication

This translation of the Quraan is dedicated to all the Huffaadh and Imaams who lead the Taraaweeh salaah and who wish to cast their lives as well as the lives of the entire Ummah into the mould that Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) was sent with. This Qur'aan prescribes a complete way of life which will ensure the well being of any nation. Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said, “Verily Allaah elevates nations by means of this Qur'aan and disgraces others thereby.” [Muslim]

Foreward

This book is a night-by-night summary of what is usually read in the Taraaweeh salaah. It has been authenticated by many leading Sheikhul Hadith and other leading Ulema of India, where the original has been published in Urdu.

The Qur'aan is the most widely read book in the world, the most printed book, the most revered book, and it is a divine scripture that cancels all others. Every Muslim owes four rights to the Qur'aan. He must:

1. Love the Qur'aan dearly.
2. Revere the Qur'aan.
3. Recite the Qur'aan properly.
4. Obey the injunctions of the Qur'aan.

With the grace of Allaah, one will not find a Muslim who does not love and revere the Qur'aan. Great efforts are also being made to teach people to recite the Qur'aan correctly. Muslims are negligent in making an effort to understand the Qur'aan so that they may act on its various injunctions. This negligence plays a major role in the degradation that the Muslims are suffering on a global scale.

The Qur'aan was revealed as a guidance for humanity at large. It is therefore imperative for every person to grasp the message of the Qur'aan. Generally Muslims devote themselves to the Qur'aan during the month of Ramadhaan, when their hearts are more receptive towards matters of Deen. During this great month, they recite the Qur'aan abundantly and listen to it daily in the Taraaweeh salaah. This book *"Gift of Taraweeh"* brings to light the pertinent messages of the Qur'aan as it is recited daily in the Taraaweeh Surah during Ramadhaan. Congregations are urged to recite it nightly so that they may understand Allaah's message to them. May Allaah accept this humble effort. Aameen.

The First Taraaweeh

This summary covers the first one and a quarter paras of the Qur'aan, beginning with Surah Faatiha and concluding with verse 176 of Surah Baqara.

START FIRST PARA.

Surah Faatiha is usually referred to as "Al Hamd Shareef." Although this Surah was not the first Surah of the Qur'aan to be revealed, it is the first to be written in Qur'aanic manuscripts and the first to be recited when commencing recitation (Tilaawah) of the Qur'aan.

Surah Faatiha is a du'aa (supplication) that Allaah has taught mankind. Therefore, when a person recites *Surah Faatiha,* s/he is actually making a du'aa to Allaah. The rest of the Qur'aan follows as a reply to this du'aa. In this du'aa a person pleads to Allaah to show him the straight path ("Siraatul Mustaqeem"). Thereafter, Allaah gives man the entire Qur'aan as the guidance he asked for and as a description of the "Siraatul Mustaqeem" which he wants to tread.

"Surah Baqara" follows "Surah Faatiha", in which Allaah says that the Qur'aan is a guide for people who revere and respect Allaah. Therefore, The Quraan may be of no use to those who have no desire for guidance and direction. Such people will be deprived of its illumination and shall remain deaf, dumb and blind. In Surah Baqara, Allaah invokes man to believe in the unseen, to establish salaah and to spend in Allaah's way from the provisions that He has granted. The details of Imaan are described as belief in the Qur'aan, belief in all the Prophets and the previously revealed Divine Scriptures and conviction in the Hereafter.

Allaah also warns people against hypocrisy, warns the kuffaar about the punishment of Jahannam, while also conveying the glad tidings of Jannah to the Mu'mineen. It is in this part of "Surah Baqara" that Allaah speaks about the creation of Hadhrat Aadam (A.S) and his appointment as Allaah's viceroy on earth. The test between the knowledge of Hadhrat Aadam (A.S) and the

angels is mentioned, together with Allaah's command do the angels prostrate before Hadhrat Aadam (A.S). While all the angels complied, Iblees refused. As a result of this arrogance, he was cursed and expelled from Heaven. Thereafter, the accursed Iblees tricked Hadhrat Adam (A.S) and Hadhrat Hawwa (A.S) into eating from the forbidden tree. They were then sent to live on earth. They repented to Allaah and were forgiven.

Allaah also speaks of the time when He summoned Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) to Mount Toor to receive the Torah. In his absence, the Bani Israa'eel began to worship the calf. However, they were eventually forgiven for this act. On a daily basis Allaah provided them with "Mann" and "Salwa" to eat from the heavens, and also provided water for them from twelve springs that gushed from a rock. Allaah describes how the Jews were ungrateful for Allaah's bounties and how they behaved rebelliously and insolently. This, together with their hypocritical conduct drew Allaah's punishment upon them.

Thereafter, Allaah speaks about Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) who was successful in every trial that Allaah placed on him. As a reward for this, Allaah made him a leader of mankind. Allaah commanded him and his son Hadhrat Isma'eel (A.S) to construct the Kaa'ba, which they duly did. Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) made du'aa to Allaah to raise a prophet from amongst his progeny who would be a guide for mankind. Allaah accepted this du'aa by raising Hadhrat Muhammed (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as a messenger to the universe, via whom guidance spread throughout the world.

END OF 1ST PARA – START OF 2ND PARA

The beginning of the second para discusses the change of Qibla. Allaah commands the Muslims to face towards the Kaa'ba instead of Baitul Muqaddas (Jerusalem) when performing salaah. Consequently, Muslims will always be required to face towards the Kaa'ba wherever they may be. Allaah also prohibits the eating of carrion (dead animals), blood, swine and all animals that have been sacrificed with the name of any being besides Allaah.

The Second Taraaweeh

This summary of the 2nd Taraweeh begins at the second quarter of the second para and concludes at the midway into the third para (verse 18) of Surah Aal Imraan.

To a very large extent, Surah Baqara discusses the complete message of Islam, dealing with matters such as the rights of Allaah, the rights of man, the way of life and the principles of social interaction. It also outlines the laws pertaining to salaah, zakaah and hajj. In addition to this, charity, social welfare, mutual consultation, marriage, divorce, Iddah (waiting period after a woman is divorced or widowed), bequests, commerce and giving loans are also discussed. The Surah also presents many commands and prohibitions, devoting much attention to matters that are permissible and those that are not. These may be referred to as a complete code of life.

The details of Imaan and the criteria of Imaan are also discussed in this part of the Surah. Allaah emphasises that people should believe in Allaah, His Prophet (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), the Day of Qiyaamah, the angels, all His other Ambiya (A.S) and all the Divine Scriptures that were revealed to various Ambiya (A.S) during their respective periods. Allaah also commands Muslims to spend generously on their parents, relatives, the poor, orphans, travellers and slaves who wish to purchase their freedom.

Allaah commands that a murderer be executed (Qisaas). However, if the heirs of the murdered person choose rather to accept the blood money, it will have to be paid. Fasting is ordained in this Surah, but people who are unable to fast have been granted certain concessions. Allaah makes it clear that marriage of Muslims to Mushrikeen men and women is prohibited. Children are allowed to be suckled for a period of only two years.

END 2ND PARA – START 3RD PARA.

Allaah declares all interest-related transactions to be undeniably haraam towards the end of Surah Baqara. The Surah also relates the incidents of two Ambiya (A.S) whose hearts Allaah put at ease when He demonstrated to them how He resurrects the dead. Throughout Surah Baqara, Allaah repeatedly emphasises the importance of pondering over the verses of the Qur'aan. At the very end of the Surah, Allaah teaches man the method of making du'aa as well as the words to be used.

The first eighteen verses of Surah Aal Imraan make it clear that only Allaah is worthy of worship, that the Day of Qiyaamah will certainly dawn and that the people will definitely be rewarded for their deeds. Allaah tells mankind that the Qur'aan was revealed to distinguish between truth and falsehood. Allaah also speaks of the Battle of Badr in this Surah. If the Mu'mineen were to ponder about the stunning victory that the Muslims earned in this battle, they can learn volumes about Allaah's power. The true Mu'mineen are defined as people who persevere through hardships, who spend their wealth in Allaah's way and awaken during the latter part of the night to beg pardon from Allaah.

The Third Taraaweeh

This summary of the 3rd Taraweeh commences at verse 18 of Surah Aal Imraan and concludes at the end of Surah Aal Imraan.

Allaah speaks of Hadhrat Isa (A.S) and his mother Hadhrat Maryam (A.S). When she was placed in the care of Hadhrat Zakariyya (A.S), he noticed that she used to eat fruits that were not in season. Upon enquiry, she told him that it was from Allaah Who sustains whomsoever He wills without any restrictions. This Surah mentions the miraculous birth of Hadhrat Isa (A.S) from Hadhrat Maryam (A.S) without a father. As an infant in his cradle, Hadhrat Isa (A.S) spoke to the people and attested to his miraculous birth. This was just one of his many miracles that are mentioned in the Surah. Allaah assures people that Hadhrat Isa (A.S) was neither killed nor crucified, but that he was lifted alive to the heavens. Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) has

informed us that Hadhrat Isa (A.S) shall return to this world just before Qiyaamah to slay Dajjaal. He will then pass away naturally. However, the Christians adamantly believe that he was crucified.

The Christians were just as opposed to Islam as the Jews were. Therefore, Allaah instructed Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to issue a challenge of Mubaahala to them. The term "Mubaahala" is a challenge between two opposing factions where each gathers his family members and they collectively invoke Allaah's punishment on the opposite faction saying, "O Allaah! Curse the party of us that is false and lying." However, the group of Christians whom Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) challenged shrank in fear from the challenge.

The Fourth Taraaweeh

This discussion begins with the last quarter of the fourth para (beginning of Surah Nisaa), and concludes with the end of the fifth para (verse 147 of Surah Nisaa).

This part of Surah Aal Imraan discusses both the Battles of Badr as well as the Battle of Uhud. During the Battle of Badr the Muslims were only 313 in number and did not even have sufficient arms to fight with. On the other hand, the Mushrikeen were over a thousand and were armed to the teeth. However, Allaah sent thousands of angels to assist the Muslim army and they convincingly vanquished the enemy. This battle was a prelude to all the subsequent battle fought.

Consequently, to avenge their defeat at Badr the Mushrikeen of Makkah mustered a large force to attack Madinah the following year. The two armies locked in combat near Mount Uhud. The Muslims were on the brink of victory when a mishap on the part of some Muslims lost the battle to the kuffaar. Instead of remaining at their posts as instructed, they left their posts to gather the booty. As a result of this, the tide of victory was converted into a bitter defeat which also left a serious injury on Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)'s face. The

Munafiqeen (hypocrites) also plotted against the Muslims and made every effort to cause discord within the ranks of the Muslims. In this part of the Surah, Allaah points out the weaknesses of the Muslims and details corrective measures to check these.

Allaah also mentions the people who misinterpret the verses of the Qur'aan to meet their own ends. Such people are warned about a terrible punishment from Allaah. Allaah also forbids the Mu'mineen from taking the kuffaar as their confidantes.

Allaah emphatically prohibits false oaths and miserliness. Allaah also declares that a person's family and wealth are a trial for him and should not be regarded as the criteria for salvation. Salvation can only be attained only by fostering fear of Allaah and abstinence from sin. The Mu'min sincerely believes in the Qur'aan, begs Allaah in all sincerity and does not seek payment from people for reciting the Qur'aan. The rewards for the pious Mu'mineen are established with their Rabb, where they will definitely receive it.

Allaah exhorts the Mu'mineen to remain steadfast on the battlefield when confronted by the enemy and not to falter in their tracks. Allaah also praises the gentle temperament and excellent character of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) towards the spread of Islam.

The following guidance for social reformation is given:

1. Allaah strictly prohibits unlawful earnings and extorting money and property from others. For example, Allaah enjoins people to fully restore the wealth and property belonging to orphans. Allaah also cautions the guardians of orphans against substituting the good provisions of the orphans with their inferior ones.

2. Allaah also makes it clear that a man is limited to only four wives at a time. Allaah also tells man that he should rather have only one wife if he fears that he would be unable to deal justly with them all. Due and amicable payment of dowry is emphasised in Surah Nisaa along with the specific shares of inheritance to be received by heirs. Of course, Allaah clarifies

that the settlement of debts is of paramount importance before dissolving any estate.

3. To purge society of the filth of adultery and fornication, Allaah has ordained that when four upright persons testify to witnessing any of these acts, those found guilty must be severely punished. Allaah also emphasises the importance of Taubah (repentance), which will be accepted only when it is sincerely done before a person's dying moments.

END OF 4TH PARA – START OF 5TH PARA.

4. The laws pertaining to marriage and dowry are discussed. Allaah enumerates all those women whom a person cannot marry, as well as those whom he is allowed to marry. Allaah also states that the stipulated dowry may be increased or decreased after marriage with the mutual consent of the couple.

While it is permissible to take a profit from a mutually agreed contract of sale, extortion and oppression are forbidden in all circumstances. Jahannam will be the punishment for committing these grave sins. When a person abstains from major sins and carries out good deeds, his minor sins are forgiven.

Allaah also says that a wife may be disciplined if she is disobedient and cannot be controlled. However, it is a grave sin to search for her faults so that she can be disciplined. If discord creeps into marriage and the couple cannot reconcile by themselves, an arbiter should be appointed to mediate in the matter.

Furthermore, Allaah states that a humiliating punishment will seize people who are miserly and ungrateful. With regard to the laws of salaah, Allaah mentions that salaah may not be performed in a state of impurity and in a state of intoxication. It is a major sin to perform salaah in any of these conditions. If water is not available for wudhu or for a bath, a person may purify himself for salaah by making Tayammum.

Allaah exhorts Muslims to return the trusts that others place in their possession, and that they should abstain from oppression

and treachery. Allaah also commands the Mu'mineen to wage jihaad; impresses on their minds that martyrdom is an exalted position and states that fear for death is an act of cowardice for a Muslim.

Man is told in this part of Surah Nisaa that testimony should be given truthfully and in unambiguous terms even though it may have adverse repercussions on oneself or on one’s family members. Another statement of extreme importance is the verse where Allaah declares that although He may forgive any sin, He will never forgive the act of shirk.

END OF 5TH PARA – START OF 6TH PARA.

The Fifth Taraaweeh

This summary of the 5th Taraweeh covers the entire sixth para together with the first quarter of the seventh (up to verse 115 of Surah Maa’idah).

One of the central themes of Surah Maa’idah is that the laws of the Shari'ah must be revered and upheld. In explaining this, the following injunctions have been highlighted:

1. Hunting is prohibited after entering into the Ihraam for Hajj.

2. Only Halaal animals may be consumed when they are slaughtered in Allaah’s name. Carrion is haraam, as is the flesh of:
    - pigs,
    - those animals that have been slaughtered in the name of any being besides Allaah,
    - those animals that have been throttled,
    - those that were beaten to death,
    - those that fell to their deaths,
    - those killed by collision, and
    - those that died after being attacked by wild beasts.

3. Allaah tells man that he should never attempt to foretell the future by means of omens and other means of divining because such deeds are the practice of sinners. All good and evil are in Allaah's control. Allaah tells the Muslims that they should have firm faith in their Deen of Islam which Allaah has perfected, thereby completing His enormous bounty on them. Therefore, Muslims should uphold the sanctity of Islam's injunctions and critically distinguish between the lawful and the unlawful. Muslims are enjoined to abstain from evil and to be grateful.

Surah Maa'idah contains laws that pertain to man's religious, civil, social and political life. This Surah contains detailed guidance about : -

- The etiquette of the hajj journey
- Revering the beacons of Deen
- The perimeters of halaal and haraam
- Marriage and interaction with the Ahlul Kitaab (Jews and Christians)
- The laws of wudhu, ghusl and Tayammum
- Dealing with rebellion
- The punishment for robbery and theft
- The prohibition of liquor and gambling
- The Kaffaara (atonement) for breaking vows and
- The detailed laws concerning testimony

Allaah ordains that the hand of a male or female thief is to be cut off. The Muslims are also warned against taking the Jews and Christians as friends. Allaah makes it clear that the belief in the 'Trinity' constitutes kufr and that enmity and hatred have been entrenched into the hearts of the kuffaar till Qiyaamah.

Allaah entreats Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) not to be grieved about the disbelief of the kuffaar because he is not responsible for them. Surah Maa'idah also states that Jannah is forbidden for the Mushrikeen and that oppressors will have none to aid them against Allaah. Allaah says that those people of the past who adhered to the divine religions of their times will attain salvation if they firmly believed in Allaah and in the Day of Qiyaamah.

END OF 6TH PARA – START OF 7TH PARA.

Allaah also draws man's attention to the fact that the person who forbids something that Allaah has permitted will be guilty of following his carnal desires (his nafs) instead of Allaah's injunctions. An example of this is the concept of monasticism that the Christians devised by which they would totally forsake the world and forbid themselves halaal pleasures. This concept is incorrect and impermissible.

Allaah reminds the Mu'mineen that they will be taken to task for every oath that they fail to fulfil. The Kaffaara (atonement) for breaching such a promise is that a person should either feed ten poor people, clothe them, set a slave free or fast for three days. Allaah also urges Muslims not to take intoxicants, not to gamble and not to divine the future. Allaah declares these acts to be haraam (temptations) of Shaytaan.

Surah Maa'idah mentions how Allaah will question every prophet about his nation. They will declare that they only did as they were told and that Allaah alone knows the reality of all hidden matters. Surah Maa'idah also makes mention of the penalty due for hunting an animal while in the state of Ihraam. Of course, every such situation has its own unique set of circumstances, which will necessitate a unique ruling. These matters should be referred to the men of knowledge.

The Sixth Taraaweeh

This summary of the 6th Taraweeh covers the verses from the second quarter of the seventh para (verse 116 of Surah Maa'idah), and concludes midway through the eighth para (up to the end of Surah An'aam).

On the Day of Qiyaamah Allaah will remind Hadhrat Isa (A.S) about his miraculous birth, about the various miracles that Allaah allowed him to perform and about the favours that Allaah bestowed on him and his mother Hadhrat Maryam (A.S). Allaah will then ask him, **"Oh Isa, son of Maryam, did you tell the people, 'Take myself and my mother both as deities instead**

of Allaah?'" Hadhrat Isa (A.S) will deny that he ever encouraged this and will accede, **"You know what is in my heart** ... **I only told them what You had commanded me with i.e. 'Worship Allaah, Who is my Rabb and your Rabb!** ... **If You punish them, then verily they are Your slaves, and if You pardon them, then surely You are the Mighty, the Wise."** [verses 116, 117 and 118 of Surah Maa'idah].

Surah An'aam commences after Surah Maa'idah. Allaah mentions that it has always been the practice of the kuffaar to ridicule the Ambiya (A.S) and to call them wizards. However, Allaah's Deen will always conquer and rise, while the kuffaar will suffer a terrible doom for their falsehood.

Whereas Allaah provides sustenance to people and does not require any reward from them, other gods cannot provide sustenance for their devotees but rather require sustenance from them. Allaah exhorts Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) not to be distressed about the aversion of the kuffaar, but to be patient because Allaah will definitely assist him. The Surah makes it clear that none will be required to account for the deeds of another on the Day of Qiyaamah. Every person will be held responsible for his/her own deeds, when the kuffaar will come to learn what their plight shall be. On that day, all kingdom will belong solely to Allaah and none shall have any say in any matter.

After describing how Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) recognised Allaah as his true Deity, Allaah tells the Quraish if Makkah that his people denied him just as they (the Quraish) deny the message of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). The conclusion is drawn from this that the Quraish also stand to face the same destructive consequences as the people of Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) did.

Allaah also points out that the worst oppressor is the one who lies about Allaah and who rebels against Allaah's commands. Oppressors will never be successful, especially in the Hereafter. Allaah has promised that the Day of Qiyaamah shall take place. Allaah advises the Mu'mineen never to swear the gods of others so that they do not retort by swearing Allaah.

END OF 7TH PARA – START OF 8TH PARA.

Allaah commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to announce to the people, **"Certainly my Rabb has guided me to the straight path ... Surely my salaah, all my acts of worship, my life and my death are for Allaah, the Rabb of the universe. He has no partner. With this have I been commanded and I am the first of those who surrender."** [Surah An'aam, verses 161, 162 and 163]

The following aspects have been emphasised in this Surah:

1. Never ascribe any as partner to Allaah.
2. Treat parents kindly.
3. Never slay your children for fear of poverty because Allaah sustains everyone.
4. Never even come close to acts of promiscuity and immodesty.
5. Never take the life of any person without a legal right to do so.
6. Be just when weighing and measuring.
7. Always speak the truth and implement justice even though it may impact negatively on one's relatives.
8. Keep your word to Allaah and to fellow man.

The Taraweeh recitation concludes with the words: **"Verily your Rabb is Swift in punishment and indeed He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful."**

The Seventh Taraaweeh

The summary of the 7th Taraaweeh commences from the second half of the eighth para (beginning of Surah A'raaf), and concludes three-quarters into the ninth para (up to the end of Surah A'raaf).

Much of Surah A'raaf concerns the advent of the Hereafter. In this regard Allaah instructs man to **"Follow what has been revealed to you from your Rabb and, leaving Him aside, do**

not follow other companions." [verse 3] Allaah also says, **"We shall definitely question those to whom messengers were sent and We will surely question the messengers."** [verse 6]

People will be questioned about whether they followed the teachings of the Ambiya (A.S) and the Ambiya (A.S) will also be asked whether they fulfilled the task of propagation and about the attitude of their people. Every person will definitely have to pass the scales to have his/her deeds weighed.

Allaah draws man's attention to the fact that rejecting the truth like Qiyaamah and Risaalah (prophethood) is an act of Shaytaan. To illustrate this point, Allaah mentions the disobedience of Shaytaan when he refused to prostrate to Hadhrat Aadam (A.S) when Allaah commanded him to do so. Allaah warns man not to act in a similar manner. Allaah also mentions that He granted man many favours when He settled him on earth and also granted him honour by commanding the angels to prostrate before his father Hadhrat Aadam (A.S). However, despite all these boons, man is still ungrateful.

Later in the Surah, Allaah cautions man not to transgress the limits that Allaah has set because **"Allaah does not like those who transgress."** Allaah declares that He has forbidden all acts of immodesty, be they secret or public. He has also forbidden people from ascribing partners to Him and ascribing such statements to Allaah which they have no knowledge of. This is referred to in verse 33 where Allaah says, **"and that you say against Allaah what you do not know."**

In verse 40 Allaah says, **"Indeed those who deny our verses and are arrogant thereto, the doors of the heavens will not be opened to them and they will not enter Jannah untill a camel enters through the eye of a needle."** It will therefore be impossible for them to enter Jannah. On the other hand, the righteous ones have been promised entry into Jannah. Therefore, the Mu'mineen should respond to Allaah's call with hope and reverence because Allaah's mercy is definitely close to the righteous ones.

Thereafter Allaah relates the incidents of several Ambiya (A.S) and states how the nations of these Ambiya (A.S) refused to accept the truth, thereby inviting Allaah's punishment to annihilate them. These incidents are intended to be lessons for people so that they accept the message of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam).

END OF 8TH PARA – START OF 9TH PARA.

After narrating these incidents Allaah says, **"When your Rabb extracted from the backs of the children of Aadam their progeny and called them to witness over themselves saying, 'Am I not your Rabb?' They replied, 'Certainly! We attest thereto.'"** [verse 172]

Allaah then says that those people who are greedy and live only to fulfil their desires are like dogs who pant with their tongues hanging out. Allaah has made Jahannam for these people because **"They have hearts with which they cannot understand, they have eyes with which they cannot see and they have ears with which they cannot hear.** (In fact) **They are like animals, but even more deviated."** [verse 179]

Allaah tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that if the kuffaar call him a wizard or a madman, he should not heed their taunts and should tell them that he is a warner to them and a bearer of glad tidings to those who will accept his message. Allaah also explains to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he should bear the harassment of the kuffaar with tolerance so that any reaction of his should not obstruct the propogation of Islaam.

In verse 199 Allaah enjoins Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) saying, **"Adopt forgiveness, enjoin what is right and ignore the ignorant."** In addition to this, Allaah also commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to engage in Dhikr morning and evening in the heart as well as verbally. We should pray to Allaah to grant us the ability to accept the prophethood of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) both verbally and practically. May He also grant us conviction in the Hereafter and make us amongst those who can sincerely ask from Him. Aameen.

The Eighth Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh begins from the last quarter of the ninth para (beginning of Surah Anfaal) and concludes at the end of the tenth para (verse 93 of Surah Taubah).

Allaah opens the Surah by discussing the distribution of the spoils of war. Allaah says, **"The spoils of war are for Allaah and His messenger."** (i.e. Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) would distribute one-fifth of the booty amongst those who were deserving). Thereafter Allaah invokes man saying, **"So fear Allaah, correct your mutual relations and obey Allaah and His messenger if you are believers."** [verse 1].

Allaah then described the true Mu'mineen when He says, **"The believers are those whose hearts tremble when Allaah is mentioned, whose faith (Imaan) increases when His verses are recited to them and they trust only in their Rabb. They are those who establish salaah and spend from what We have provided for them. These are the true believers! For them shall be ranks by their Rabb, forgiveness and bountiful sustenance."** [verses 2, 3, 4]

Allaah makes mention of the assistance that He rendered to the Muslims during the Battle of Badr when He sent thousands of angels to fight with them. Allaah also cast fear into the hearts of the kuffaar despite their overwhelming numbers. Allaah then declares that there awaits a severe punishment for those who oppose Allaah and His Prophet (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam).

Thereafter, Allaah exhorts the Mu'mineen to fight in jihaad with fervour. Allaah says, **"Oh you who believe, when you meet the disbelievers in battle, do not turn your backs to them."** [verse 15] Allaah says that the person who flees from the battlefield because of cowardice shall draw Allaah's wrath upon himself. Towards the end of the para Allaah says, **"Fight them till no anarchy** (kufr) **exists and all religion is for Allaah. So if they desist** (from kufr and shirk)**, then indeed Allaah is**

Watchful over what they do. If they turn away then know that Allaah is your Protecting Friend. What a terrific Friend and what a terrific Helper!” (verses 39 and 40)

END OF 9TH PARA – START OF 10TH PARA.

The tenth para commences with mention of booty. Allaah declares, **“Know that from whatever spoils of war that you acquire, a fifth thereof shall be for Allaah, His messenger, the relatives, the poor, the orphans and the travellers.”** [verse 41] The remaining four-fifths will be distributed amongst the Mujaahideen (the Muslim soldiers who fought in the battle).

Allaah then discusses certain details about the Battle of Badr. In this discussion Allaah addresses the Mu'mineen saying, **“Obey Allaah and His messenger and do not fall into dispute with each other, for then you will become cowardly and your strength will be lost. Be patient, for verily Allaah is with the patient ones.”** [verse 46]

Allaah commands the Muslims further: **“Prepare against them whatever forces of strength you can muster...”** [verse 60] In addition to amassing weapons and battle provisions, Muslims must always have conviction in Allaah’s assistance. Allaah then assures the Muslims: **“Whatever you may spend in Allaah’s way will be given to you in full and you will not be oppressed.”** [verse 60]

Addressing Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), Allaah says, **“Oh Prophet (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), exhort the believers to fight.”** [verse 65]. Allaah informs the Muslims that if they are righteous, resolute and trust firmly in Allaah, they will be able to vanquish an army larger than themselves.

Prisoners of war should not be captured merely with the intention of earning ransom money. Towards the end of the Surah, Muslims are urged to keep religious objectives in mind when migrating or when waging jihaad. Earning the booty must never be the objective. Allaah outlines a principle in inheritance at the end of Surah Anfaal when He says, **“Those who are relatives are closer to each other in Allaah’s Book.”** [verse 75]

The next Surah is called Surah Taubah because it contains mention of the Taubah that Allaah accepted from those who failed to participate in the Battle of Tabook. It is also called Surah Baraa'ah because Allaah exonerates Himself and Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) from the kuffaar (The Arabic word "Baraa'ah" means exoneration).

This Surah makes mention of the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah which the Mushrikeen of Makkah eventually broke. Allaah declares, **"Allaah and His messenger have exonerated themselves from those Mushrikeen with whom you have made a treaty."** Consequently, **"The proclamation from Allaah and His messenger** (was made) **on the day of the greater hajj that verily Allaah and His messenger are exonerated from the Mushrikeen."** [verses 1 and 3]

After this declaration, all Mushrikeen were banned from entering the Haram and from making Tawaaf naked. The Muslims are urged not to take even their closest relatives as friends if they are kuffaar. Allaah also advises Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) not to accept the lame excuses of the Munafiqeen (hypocrites) when they are reluctant to fight in jihaad. Their excuses are all concocted and the oaths that they take along with the excuses are all false. Allaah assures Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that the oaths of the sinners and Munafiqeen are hollow and should be ignored because these people were never Muslims. Allaah warns Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that the Munafiqeen will desert him as soon as they get the opportunity. Allaah's curse is on the Munafiqeen men and women because they are all birds of a feather. Allaah also forbade Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) from performing the Janaazah (funeral) salaah for the Munafiqeen.

This Surah also details the recipients of zakaah as:

1. The poor.
2. Slaves who are buying their freedom.
3. The destitute.
4. Those in debt.
5. The collectors of zakaah.

6. Those in "Allaah's path".
7. Those who need to be inclined to Islam.
8. Travellers.

In brief, Surah Taubah contains the following subject matter:

1. Certain battles and related incidents.
2. The treaties with the Mushrikeen and the declaration of exoneration from all kuffaar and Mushrikeen.
3. Prohibition of fighting during the days of Hajj.
4. Restriction of entry into the Haram for non-Muslims.
5. The command for the Ahlul Kitaab to either accept Islam or pay the Jizya.
6. Reproaching those who were negligent in participating in jihaad.
7. Specifying the recipients of zakaah.
8. Identifying the Munafiqeen and the Mu'mineen.

May Allaah grant us all the Taufeeq to practise upon the injunctions detailed in this Surah. Aameen.

The Ninth Taraaweeh

END OF 10TH PARA – START OF 11TH PARA.

This Taraaweeh begins from the start of the eleventh para and concludes at the termination of the first quarter of the twelfth para (verse 49 of Surah Hood).

The ending of the tenth para dealt with those Munafiqeen who concocted excuses to evade conscription into the Muslim army. There were also many proud Munafiqeen who saw no need to excuse themselves. The opening verse of the para refers to those Munafiqeen who came to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) after the Battle of Tabook. Addressing Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), Allaah says, **"They will make excuses to you when you return to them. Tell them, 'Do not make excuses, we shall never believe you. Allaah has already informed us about your condition..."** [verse 94]

Allaah speaks about people who regard zakaah as a burden on their shoulders. Allaah says, **"Of the villagers are those who consider what they spend as a tax and they await the ill-fortunes of fate to befall you. May the ill fortunes befall them! Allaah is All Hearing, All Knowing."** [verse 98]

After discussing the Munafiqeen, Allaah speaks about the Mu'mineen in verse 100 when He says, **"The first to lead the way, from the Muhajireen, the Ansaar, and those who followed them with sincerity; Allaah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him. He has prepared for them such gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they shall abide forever. This is the ultimate success."**
Thereafter, Allaah speaks about the masjid of harm (Masjid Diraar), the underlying purpose of which was to promote hypocrisy and kufr amongst the Muslims. Allaah condemned its construction and the Muslims destroyed it. The subsequent verses make reference to the three Sahaaba (R.A) who failed to participate in the expedition to Tabook. They were boycotted for fifty days before Allaah announced the acceptance of their Tauba in this Surah.

Surah Yunus follows Surah Taubah. Surah Yunus also discusses the three fundamental issues of:

♉ Tauheed (Oneness of Allaah),
♉ Risaalah [the prophethood of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)]
♉ Aakhirah (the Hereafter).

Attention is drawn to these beliefs by using occurrences and quoting momentous historical reports which serve to engrave these beliefs into the mind. Therefore, Allaah commences the Surah by stating, **"These are the verses of the wise Book. Are people surprised that We sent revelation to a man from amongst them?"** Those who respond to the message of the Prophet (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) will be guided to salvation, whereas those who reject will be doomed to destruction and will not be saved by anyone's intercession. Allaah then

proceeds to warn people of Jahannam and convey the glad tidings of Jannah to the Mu'mineen.

In verse 12 Allaah speaks about ungrateful people when He says, **"When any adversity afflicts man, he supplicates to Us lying down, sitting or standing. When We avert the adversity from him, he continues as if he has never supplicated to Us for the adversity that afflicted him."**

Allaah then relates the incidents of various Ambiya (A.S) like Hadhrat Nooh (A.S), Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) and Hadhrat Yunus (A.S). In narrating these, Allaah impresses on man not to fall into the same trap that they fell for.

At the end of the Surah Allaah declares, **"Say, 'Oh people! Certainly the truth has come to you from your Rabb. So whosoever will be guided shall only receive guidance for himself. Whosoever will go astray shall only go astray to his own detriment. I have not been commissioned over you. Follow what has been revealed to you and persevere till Allaah passes decision. He is the Best of the deciders."** [verses 108/9]

END OF 11TH PARA – START OF 12TH PARA.

Surah Hood follows Surah Yunus and contains the incidents of many a past nation, describing the punishments that afflicted them because eof their disbelief. Thereafter the Surah illustrates the scene of Qiyaamah and the rewards and punishment to be received by various classes of people.

Allaah introduces the Surah by saying, **"This is a Book, the verses of which have been consolidated and then expounded (coming from) The Wise, The Informed."** Proceeding further Allaah says, **"The responsibility for sustaining every creature on earth rests with Allaah."** Allaah then describes how He created the universe. Allaah challenges man to produce Surahs the like of those in the Qur'aan if they feel that the Qur'aan is an invention of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). However, even if

they have to call everyone to their assistance they will never be able to compose anything like the Qur'aan.

May Allaah grant us all the ability to appreciate all the bounties that He has granted to us and that He includes us amongst His grateful servants. May Allaah also grant us the Tawfeeq to hearken to His every instruction and may He save us from arrogance and pride. Aameen.

The Tenth Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh begins from the second quarter of the twelfth para (verse 50 of Surah Hood) and concludes halfway through the 13th para (verse 18 of Surah Ra'd).

Allaah states, **"And to the Aad We sent their brother Hood."** Just as the people of Hadhrat Nooh (A.S) remained stubborn in the disbelief, the people of Hadhrat Hood (A.S) did the same. Instead of listening to the message of Tauheed, the Aad exclaimed **"Who is more powerful than us?"** They were eventually destroyed. The nation of Thamud followed them. When they refused to accept the message of Hadhrat Saalih (A.S), Allaah's punishment destroyed them as well. Mention is then made of the people of Hadhrat Loot (A.S) who were extremely lewd and immoral. As a result of their depravity they also suffered the same fate as their sister nations before them. Thereafter, Allaah speaks about the preaching of Hadhrat Shu'aib (A.S) to the people of Madyan and then about the preaching of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) to Fir'oun and his people.

After citing all these incidents Allaah says, **"Such is the grasp of your Rabb when He seized a town that is oppressive. Indeed His grasp is painful and severe."** [verse 102]

Addressing Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), Allaah says further, **"We narrate to you all the narratives of the messengers so that your heart may be strengthened thereby. In these narratives the truth has come to you, as**

well as an advice and reminder for the believers." [verse 120]

Allaah then concludes the Surah by saying, **"To Allaah belongs the unseen things of the heavens and the earth and unto Him alone will all matters return. So worship Him and rely on Him only. Your Rabb is not unaware of what you do."** [verse 123]

Surah Yusuf follows Surah Hood. Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) was not aware of the story of Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S), so the Jews decided to test his prophethood by asking him about this story. They thought that he would be unable to narrate the story to them. However, Allaah revealed Surah Yusuf to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), thereby stunning the Jews with its detailed account.

As a boy, Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) once saw in a dream that eleven stars, the sun and the moon were prostrating before him. The eleven stars denoted his eleven step-brother, while the sun and moon denoted his parents. When he informed his father Hadhrat Ya'qoob (A.S) about the dream, his father advised him not to relate the dream to his brothers because they would then become his sworn enemies.

His brothers had always been jealous of Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) and finally threw him in a well one day, making the excuse to their father that a wolf had devoured him. Some travellers took him out of the well and sold him as a slave to the chief minister of Egypt. The minister's wife was infatuated with Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S)'s beauty and attempted to seduce him. It was when he refused to respond to her charms that she had him imprisoned. While in prison he accurately interpreted the dreams of two fellow inmates. When one of them was released, he (after some time) referred the king's dream to Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S), who interpreted it correctly and even provided a solution for the problem at hand. As a result, Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) became a trusted advisor to the king and practically ruled Egypt.

END OF 12TH PARA – START OF 13TH PARA.

When a severe drought struck Egypt and the surrounding areas, Egypt had no shortage of grains because Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) had proposed to the king from before that they should keep grains in store from the previous years. Therefore, people from the neighbouring areas began to flock to Egypt for food. Amongst those who arrived in Egypt were the brothers of Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S). Although they failed to recognise him, he recognised them and returned their money to them without their knowledge. He also insisted that they bring their youngest brother along on the next trip.

When they arrived home and found that their money was returned to them they said, **"Oh our father! What more can we want? Here are our funds returned to us."** [verse 65] On the next trip they took their youngest brother along with them. As they started to return home, Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) detained his youngest brother in Egypt on some pretext. Hadhrat Ya'qoob (A.S) turned blind because of excessive weeping over his lost child. Allaah says, **"His eyes turned white with sorrow."** [verse 84]

When the brothers returned to Egypt for the third time and Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) informed them about who he was, they cast their gazes down in embarrassment and regret. Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) told them, **"The fact is that whoever adopts taqwa and is patient** (through adversities)**, then Allaah surely does not put to waste the reward of those who do good."** [verse 90]

When the brothers begged his forgiveness, Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S) displayed exemplary character and put them as ease by saying, **"There shall be no reproach on you today. May Allaah forgive you. He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy."** [verse 92]

Upon the request of Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S), Hadhrat Ya'qoob (A.S) and his entire family arrived in Egypt. When the family was reunited, they all fell in prostration before Hadhrat Yusuf (A.S). Thus, the dream he saw in childhood was realised.

At the end of the Surah Allaah states that there are great lessons in the narratives of the Ambiya (A.S) for people of understanding.

Allaah says, **"In their narratives there is certainly a lesson for people of intelligence. This Qur'aan is not a fabricated tale, but a confirmation to all the scriptures before it, a detailed explanation of all things, a guidance and a mercy for the believing folk."** [verse 111]

Surah Ra'd follows Surah Yusuf. This Surah establishes the truth of the Qur'aan, of Tauheed, Risaalah and Qiyaamah. It also provides details concerning resurrection. Allaah warns the kuffaar of severe punishment in the Hereafter, but also states that He overlooks many sins for which He could well punish people. Allaah makes it clear that He is Aware of everything that man does and even has knowledge of what changes take place in the womb of an expectant mother.

Allaah also emphasises: **"Undoubtedly Allaah does not change the conditions of a nation till they change the condition within themselves."** [verse 11] Allaah has never changed the conditions affecting any nation that did not make an attempt to change their behaviour. Furthermore, Allaah exhorts man to ward off sins by carrying out good deeds because the bounties of the Hereafter have been made for the Mu'mineen.

May Allaah grant us the capacity to effect a revolution within our live styles and make us a means of effecting a favourable change to our surroundings. May Allaah also grant us the guidance to carry out good deeds to attain the eternal bliss of Jannah. Aameen.

The Eleventh Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh commences from the second half of the thirteenth para (verse 19 of Surah Ra'd) and terminates three-quarters into the 14th para (verse 89 of Surah Nahl).

Allaah declares, **"Due to their evil deeds, some calamity will always afflict the disbelievers, or descend close to their homes till Allaah's promise** (Qiyaamah) **comes."** [Surah Ra'd, verse 31] Allaah also mentions that although the kuffaar are

continuously plotting, the final decision in any matter always rests with Allaah. Allaah is Aware of whatever they do and will take them to task for their deeds.

Surah Ibraheem follows Surah Ra'd. This Surah also begins with mention of the Qur'aan. Allaah says, **"This is a Book that We revealed to you to remove people from the multitude of darkness, taking them towards light, by the command of your Rabb to the path of The Mighty, The One Worthy of praise."** The Surah proceeds to establish the prophethood of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), whereafter belief in Tauheed is discussed. To emphasise the concept of Tauheed Allaah cites the incidents of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) and Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S). The Surah also condemns kufr and shirk by means of examples.

Allaah quotes the du'aa of Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) in this Surah when he supplicated to Allaah saying, **"Oh our Rabb! I have settled my children in a valley that cannot be cultivated, close to Your sacred house. Oh our Rabb! So that they establish salaah, so cause some hearts of people to be inclined towards them. And provide for them fruits for their sustenance so that they may be grateful. Oh our Rabb! Indeed You know what we conceal and what we disclose. Nothing in the heavens and the earth is hidden from Allaah."** [verse 37/8] The du'aas of Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) teaches us to include Allaah's praises in our du'aas so that they are more readily accepted. After discussing the incident of Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S), Allaah urges the people of Makkah to learn a lesson from the narratives of the previous nations.

The Surah warns people of the terrible punishment of the Day of Qiyaamah for those who reject the truth and stubbornly oppose it. AT the end Allaah says, **"This** (Qur'aan) **is a message for people so that they are warned thereby and so that they know that He is but One deity; and so that the intelligent ones take heed thereby."** [verse 52]

END OF 13TH PARA – START OF 14TH PARA.

Surah Hijr follows Surah Ibraheem. This Surah sounds a stern warning to those people who mock at Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)'s message of Islam and who called him a madman. Allaah tells such people that the Qur'aan is a Reminder from Allaah which He has revealed to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Allaah adds: **"Without doubt We have revealed the Reminder and We shall certainly be it's protectors."** [verse 9]

Allaah consoles Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) in this Surah by telling him that he should never allow the taunts and threats of the Mushrikeen affect him because these people are following the footsteps of Shaytaan and are destined for Jahannam. Allaah declares that He is the Most Forgiving and the Most Merciful, but that He is also Capable of afflicting a grievous punishment to people.

Addressing Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) Allaah says, **We know very well that your bosom is constrained by what they** (the Mushrikeen) **say."** [verse 97] In the next verse Allaah prescribes the remedy for the hurt that the kuffaar cause to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Allaah says, **"So glorify the praises of your Rabb and be of the prostrate ones. And worship your Rabb till the certainty (death) comes to you."**

Surah Nahl commences after Surah Hijr. Allaah opens the Surah with the words, **"Allaah's command has arrived, so do not seek to hasten it. He is Pure and Exalted above what they associate as partners to Him."** Allaah censures the kuffaar for requesting for Allaah's punishment and reminds them that the day will certainly come when they will be taken to task for their deeds. Man is ungrateful to Allaah Who has provided him with various means of conveyances and animals whereby he can transport himself and his heavy loads. There are great signs in these for people who will ponder.

Allaah tells the Mushrikeen **"So travel in the land and see what was the consequence of those who denied."** [verse 36] The civilisations of these people lie in ruins – destroyed by the

consequences of their very own deeds. Allaah reminds man that whatever He wills shall come to pass.

Thereafter, Allaah rebukes the Mushrikeen for feeling ashamed and humiliated when they have a daughter; and emotion that leads them to eventually bury the child alive. Allaah then discusses various bounties that He has bestowed man with; like the rains, the animals and the flourishing of vegetation after rains. Allaah also calls man's attention to the great boon of milk that Allaah miraculously produces within the bellies of animals. Allaah says, **"From what is in their bellies between excrement and blood, We give you pure milk to drink, which is easily consumed."** [verse 66]

Thereafter, Allaah reminds man of the various types of delicious fruit that Allaah provides for him by His pure grace. Mention is then made of the bee, which Allaah has inspired to build hives in mountains and trees. Allaah has charged the bees with producing honey, about which Allaah says that it is **"a cure for man"** [verse 69]. All these bounties denote the existence of One Allaah because none else can create these phenomena.

Allaah says further, **"Allaah has given some of you preference over others in sustenance."** [verse 71] In so doing, people are interdependent and each one serves the needs of the next, thereby allowing the smooth functioning of the system of life. Further reminding man of His bounties Allaah says, **"Allaah has made spouses for you from yourselves and, from these spouses, created sons and grandsons. And He has provided for you pure foods to eat. Will they believe in falsehood and show ingratitude to Allaah's favour?"** [verse 72] Despite the fact that Allaah provides man with his sustenance and all these bounties, the kuffaar still worship **"things that cannot provide any sustenance for them from the skies, nor from the earth."** [verse 73] In addition to this they also forbid others from treading the right path. Because of their deviant ways Allaah will subject them to a severe punishment when He will resurrect all of mankind.

Allaah then mentions a few attributes of the Qur'aan when He says that it is also **"a guidance, a mercy and a glad tiding for those who submit."** [verse 89].

May Allaah grant us the ability to be conscious of His bounties and to remain steadfast upon the belief in Tauheed. Aameen.

The Twelfth Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh begins from the last quarter of the 14th para (from verse 90 of Surah Nahl) and terminates at the end of the 15th para (verse 74 of Surah Kahaf).

This Taraaweeh commences with the verse **"Verily Allaah instructs justice, good and giving to relatives. And Allaah forbids from lewdness, evil and oppression. He advises you so that you may take heed."** Allaah also commands people to fulfil their pledges and their oaths, and not to accept bribes. Allaah promises all Mu'mineen men and women who carry out good deeds that He will grant them a pure and comfortable life in this world and full reward for their deeds in the Hereafter.

Thereafter, Allaah instructs the Muslims that they should always seek refuge with Allaah from Shaytaan when they commence recitation of the Qur'aan. Allaah also advises, **"Call to the path of your Rabb with wisdom and good counsel; and dispute with them** (the kuffaar) **in a manner that is best."** [Surah Nahl, verse 125] At the end of the Surah Allaah tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he should not be grieved about what his opposition does because Allaah will certainly assist him to overcome all the hurdles they place before him.

END OF 14TH PARA – START OF 15TH PARA.

Surah Bani Israa'eel follows Surah Nahl as the 17th Surah of the Qur'aan. Allaah took Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) on the miraculous journey of Mi'raaj, when Allaah showed him great signs of His power. It was on this journey that Allaah made the five daily salaah compulsory on all Muslims. This blessed

Surah also contains the 14 guidelines whereby the life of a Muslim can be most fulfilling. These are:

1. Worship Allaah only.
2. Treat parents kindly.
3. Fulfil the rights of relatives, the poor and travellers.
4. Never be wasteful.
5. If you cannot be of assistance to a person in need, inform him kindly.
6. Be neither miserly nor extravagant, but choose a path between the two.
7. Never kill your children for fear of poverty.
8. Never even draw close to fornication.
9. Never slay a person without warrant.
10. Never misuse the wealth of an orphan.
11. Always keep your word.
12. Never cheat in weight and measure.
13. Never talk about anything that you have not verified.
14. Never walk with pride.

The Tahajjud salaah is made compulsory for Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) in this Surah. Allaah also announces: **"Say, 'The truth has arrived and falsehood has vanished. Indeed, falsehood was bound to disappear."** [verse 81]

Thereafter Allaah speaks about Hadhrat Moosa (A.S), his miracles, and his preaching to Fir'oun. The eventual destruction of Fir'oun is also mentioned. Allaah says further, **"We have revealed it** (the Qur'aan) **with the truth, and with the truth did it come."** [verse 105]. Awe-struck by the grandeur of the Qur'aan, men of knowledge fall prostrate when they hear the Qur'aan and the Qur'aan increases their humility.

The very last verse of the Surah declares, **"Say, 'All praise is for Allaah, Who has not taken a child, has no partner in sovereignty and does not require an assistant due to any weakness. And declare His greatness in abundance."** [verse 111]

Surah Kahaf follows Surah Bani Israa'eel. The part of Surah Kahaf which is recited in this Taraaweeh includes the incident of the men of the cave and Hadhrat Moosa (A.S)'s meeting with Hadhrat Khidr (A.S). The "men of the cave" were a group of young men who grew weary of the depravity around them and decided to leave their town. Since the only shelter they could find outside their town was a cave, they entered it. Allaah cast them all into a deep sleep that lasted approximately three hundred years. During this period their dog lay watch at the mouth of the cave and the evil and corruption that existed in their town gave way to a decent government of Mu'mineen. By the time they woke up, everything had changed and it was not long after they learnt about the situation that they all passed away in the very same cave. They will now only awaken for the Day of Qiyaamah.

This Surah also makes mention of the wisdom in Allaah's system of control, which he showed Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) via Hadhrat Khidr (A.S). As the two travelled, Hadhrat Khidr (A.S) damaged the boat of some poor people, killed an innocent looking young boy, and bolstered a falling wall of some people who behaved inhospitably to them. Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) was unable to bear with these acts and objected to each of them. Finally, Hadhrat Khidr (A.S) explained to him that Allaah has commanded each act and that there was good in every act even though they appeared to be dreadful.

Allaah also declares in the Surah: **"We have undoubtedly expounded all types of subjects in the Qur'aan for people. Man has always been the worst disputant."** [verse 54]. Man has always contested what Allaah has revealed to His Ambiya (A.S) and refuses to accept it. The Qur'aan contains the most upright and ethical teachings so that people with understanding may ponder over these and take a lesson from them. Amongst these teachings are the incidents of the men of the cave and of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S). May Allaah grant us a deep insight and understanding. Aameen.

END OF 15TH PARA – START OF 16TH PARA.

The Thirteenth Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh commences from the beginning of the 16th para and ends after the first quarter of the 17th para (verse 50 of Surah Ambiya).

This part of Surah Kahaf contains the incident of Dhul Qarnain whose kingdom was extremely extensive. He was a pious Mu'min who ruled very justly. It was during his reign that the barbaric tribes of Ya'jooj and Ma'jooj plundered other nations and wreaked havoc in their lives. Dhul Qarnain stemmed their tide of anarchy by erecting a wall of iron and copper at their exit between two mountains. He made it clear to the people there that it was only Allaah's mercy that kept the wall from collapsing because it was merely a temporary object of this world. They were therefore to continue performing good deeds and purge their deeds of shirk. In this regard the final verse of the Surah reads: **"So whoever aspires for the meeting with his Rabb should perform good deeds and not associate anyone as partner to the worship of his Rabb."** [verse 110]

Surah Maryam follows Surah Kahaf. This Surah commences with mention of how Allaah blessed Hadhrat Zakariyyah (A.S) with a child after he had already advanced in age. His son was Hadhrat Yahya (A.S), who was a soft-hearted Nabi who possessed a decisive sense of judgement. Thereafter Allaah relates the epic of Hadhrat Maryam (A.S) when she miraculously gave birth to Hadhrat Isa (A.S) without a father. Many other Ambiya (A.S) are mentioned thereafter. The objective of mentioning these Ambiya (A.S) is to impress upon people's minds that all the Ambiya (A.S) brought the same message that Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) brought. However, depravity crept into the lives of people through the passage of time and they resorted to kufr and shirk.

Towards the end of the Surah Allaah declares that it is profane to say that He has children because it does not behove His loftiness and grandeur to have any children. Claiming that Allaah has children is an open invitation to His wrath and punishment.

Surah TaaHaa follows Surah Maryam. At the very outset Allaah addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) saying, **"We have not revealed the Qur'aan to you to cause you difficulty. However, it is an advice for him who fears."** Allaah has not charged Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) with forcing people to believe when they do not want to. The Qur'aan will be of benefit to those who fear that Allaah will take them to task for their sins.

Thereafter, Allaah narrates the incident of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S). The Surah mentions the following events in Hadhrat Moosa (A.S)'s life:

- When he is conferred the mantle of prophethood on the plain of Tuwa.
- His miracles of the staff and shining hand.
- His upbringing in Fir'oun's palace.
- His preaching to Fir'oun.
- His contest against the magicians.
- His departure from Egypt with the Bani Israa'eel.
- Fir'oun and his army pursue them and are eventually drowned.
- The Bani Israa'eel treachery and disobedience of the Bani Israa'eel which leads them to take a calf as their deity.

Thereafter the Surah speaks about Qiyaamah and urges the performance of salaah. Towards the end of the Surah Allaah says to the Mu'mineen, **"Never strain your eyes towards the splendour of the worldly life and the wives that We have granted the disbelievers to enjoy, to test them therewith. The provision of your Rabb is best and more lasting."** [verse 131]

END OF 16TH PARA – START OF 17TH PARA.

The next Surah is Surah Ambiya, which derives its name from the fact that it mentions a series of Ambiya (A.S). The Surah also cautions people against being negligent about Qiyaamah and reckoning. Allaah mentions that the Qur'aan contains every type of advice and explanation for mankind. They therefore have a

choice before them and can project the consequences of their deeds.

None can ever save himself from Allaah's punishment when it comes, and people will be foolish to pin their hopes in their fabricated gods. People will be called to account for every minute deed – even and act the size of a mustard seed will be weighed in the scale of deeds. Allaah's judgement on the Day of Qiyaamah will be final and binding. May Allaah grant us all the Taufeeq to practise. Aameen.

The Fourteenth Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh begins from the second quarter of the 17th para (from verse 51 of Surah Ambiya) and ends halfway into the 18th para (verse 20 of Surah Noor).

In the remaining verses of Surah Ambiya, Allaah discusses the various Ambiya (A.S) from Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) to Hadhrat Isa (A.S). Thereafter, Allaah says about Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), **"We have sent you as a mercy to the universe."** [verse 107] The next verse declares Tauheed when Allaah instructs Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to **"Say, 'It has been revealed to me that your deity is but One Deity. So will you submit to this?"**

Surah Hajj follows Surah Ambiya and opens with a reminder of Qiyaamah. Allaah says, **"Oh people! Fear your Rabb. The earthquake of Qiyamah is a tremendous thing indeed. The day when you will witness it, every nursing mother will forget her suckling infant and every pregnant woman will abort** (because of intense fear)**. And you will see people in a drunken stupor whereas they will not be drunk, but Allaah's punishment is severe."** [verses 1 and 2]

Allaah also cautions those Mu'mineen whose faith is weak that they should make a concerted effort to strengthen their Imaan and carry out good deeds so that the welfare of their lives in this world and in the Hereafter is not jeopardised. Allaah says that it

was Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) who termed this ummah as Muslimeen. Allaah also makes mention of the Kaa'ba and instructs **"and perform tawaaf around the 'Baitul Ateeq'** (the Kaa'ba)**."** [verse 29]

Thereafter, certain rites of hajj are mentioned, about which Allaah states, **"And whoever honours Allaah's signs, then this is due to the taqwa of hearts."** [verse 32]. With regard to sacrificial animals on the occasion of hajj Allaah says, **"Their flesh and blood will never reach Allaah, but it is your taqwa that will reach Him."** [verse 37]

Allaah concludes the Surah with the following message to the Muslims: **77. "Oh you who believe, bow, prostrate, worship your Rabb and carry out good deeds so that you may be successful." 78. "Strive for Allaah with the endeavour that is His right. He has chosen you and has not placed any hardship upon in religion. Follow the creed of your father, Ibraheem. It was him who named you Muslims from before and in this Qur'aan, so that the messenger** (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) **be a witness over you people, and that you be witnesses over mankind. So establish salaah, pay zakaah and hold fast to** (the rope of) **Allaah. He is your Protecting Friend. The Best Protecting Friend and the Best Helper."** [verses 77/8]

END OF 17TH PARA – START OF 18TH PARA.

These concluding words of Surah Hajj draw the 17th para to a close and lead to the opening verses of Surah Mu'minoon. At the beginning of this Surah Allaah describes those Mu'mineen whose beliefs are correct, who worship Allaah diligently and are also particular about fulfilling the rights of others. In describing the qualities of the Mu'mineen, Allaah exhorts all the Mu'mineen that they should sincerely worship Him, fulfil the promises and pledges they make with others and abstain from all acts of lechery. These are amongst the acts that will lead to eternal success.

After discussing the qualities if the Mu'mineen, Allaah discusses the signs that denote His greatness and His oneness. Amongst

these signs Allaah mentions the creation of man, the creation of the heavens and the earth, as well as the various plants and animals together with the milk that Allaah produces from their bellies. All these boons denote Allaah's all encompassing mercy and compassion towards His creation, which should spur man to accept the belief of Tauheed.

Allaah then cites the incident of Hadhrat Nooh (A.S) so that people may learn that success lies in following the teachings of Allaah's Ambiya (A.S). Allaah also urges the Mu'mineen not to destroy their deeds by being proud and that their hearts should always be apprehensive of returning to Allaah for reckoning. Further describing the qualities of the Mu'mineen Allaah says, **"These people hasten to perform good deeds and are the forerunners in this."** [verse 61]

Allaah states a blanket rule when He says, **"We do not burden any soul more than it can bear."** [verse 62] Allaah also tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that the kuffaar will never cease to oppose him till their deaths, when they will regret their ways. However, it will then be too late.

The 24th Surah of the Qur'aan, Surah Noor, commences after Surah Mu'minoon and contains verses that are pertinent to the morality of society. A gist of the Surah may be mentioned in the following twelve points:

1. A hundred lashes are to be metered out to any unmarried man or woman guilty of fornication.
2. Men and women guilty of fornication should be ostracised from society and none should marry them.
3. Eighty lashes should be metered out to anyone who accuses another of adultery or fornication without the required proof.
4. If a husband or a wife accuses their partner of adultery, each should take four oaths in Allaah's name that s/he is truthful and that the other is lying. A fifth oath should then be taken by each of them invoking Allaah's curse him/her if s/he is lying.
5. **"Unchaste women are for unchaste men and unchaste men are for unchaste women. Pure women are for pure men and pure men are for pure women. These people**

are innocent of what the slanderers say. Theirs is forgiveness and a bounteous reward." [verse 26]

6. An accused person will be regarded as innocent till proven guilty.
7. Never enter another person's home without permission.
8. Men and women should neither stare at each other nor steal secretive glances at each other.
9. Women must never display their charms before men who are not close family members.
10. Islam does not approve of leading one's life as a bachelor or a spinster.
11. During times of privacy, not even children are allowed to enter any person's room without permission.
12. Even when the blind or paralysed eat from the homes of relatives without permission, it will not be regarded as theft.

Allaah also discusses the incident of the slander against Hadhrat Aa'isha (R.A). In Surah Noor Allaah refutes the allegation of adultery that the Munafiqeen attributed to Hadhrat Aa'isha (R.A) and warned the Mu'mineen that they should never accept such rumours in future.

May Allaah grant us all the guidance to practise on the teachings of Islam and refrain from immoral acts, slander, evil glances and all other sins. Aameen.

The Fifteenth Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh begins from the second half of the 18th para (from verse 21 of Surah Noor) and ends at the third quarter of the 19th para (verse 6 of Surah Naml).

Allaah addresses the Mu'mineen saying, **"Oh you who believe, do not follow the footsteps of shaytaan. Whoever follows the footsteps of shaytaan, then verily he commands immorality and evil."** [verse 21]

Allaah also mentions, **"We have surely revealed clear laws to you, some narratives of those who passed before you, and**

an advice for those who have taqwa (i.e. for those who have fear for Allaah)**."** [verse 34]

In the next verse Allaah declares, **"Allaah is the Light of the heavens and the earth."** A Mu'min is therefore one who will take light from Allaah to guide him through life and who will adhere to the teachings of the Ambiya (A.S) because **"Those who oppose the messenger's commands should beware that some calamity or a grievous punishment should afflict them."** [verse 63]

Surah Furqaan follows Surah Noor. Allaah introduces the Surah by stating, **"Blessed indeed is the Being Who revealed the Criterion upon His bondsman so that he may be a warner to the universe** (that a severe punishment awaits the person who does not believe)**."**

END OF 18TH PARA- START OF 19TH PARA.

Allaah tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he should not be distressed about the harassment of the kuffaar because **"Your Rabb suffices as a Guide and a Helper."** [verse 31]

Allaah also commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to tell the people that he requires no remuneration for his efforts at propagating. The only reward he desired was that people follow the straight path and become true bondsmen of Allaah who **"walk on earth in humility and, when the ignorant talk to them, they say, 'Peace."** [verse 63] This means that they do not enter into arguments with ignorant people and gracefully pass by them. Allaah then makes it clear that the true Mu'mineen will attain lofty ranks of Jannah while the kuffaar will be unable save themselves from Allaah's punishment.

Surah Shu'araa follows Surah Furqaan. This Surah contains the stories of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) and Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S), as well as mention of the destruction of the Aad, the Thamud and the nation of Hadhrat Nooh (A.S). Allaah also makes mention of the plight that evil poets who are constantly lost in their futile thoughts will suffer.

Addressing Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), Allaah states, **"It seems like you will destroy yourself because they are not believing. If We willed, We would have revealed a great sign to them from the sky, causing their necks to bow before it in humility."** [verses 3 and 4] However, because the kuffaar have already refused to accept the truth, they will have to suffer the punishment for their obstinacy.

Allaah then proceeds to recount approximately seven incidents, amongst these being the stories of Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S), Hadhrat Nooh (A.S), Hadhrat Hood (A.S), Hadhrat Saalih (A.S), Hadhrat Loot (A.S) and Hadhrat Shu'aib (A.S). Each one of these incidents are a means of guidance for people, but there will still be many rejecters who refuse to believe in them and will mock at them. Allaah says, **"They have certainly denied, so shortly the news of what they used to mock at will come to them."** [verse 6]

The Mushrikeen claimed that Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) was a poet and that the Qur'aan was a composition of poetry. Allaah denies that the Qur'aan could ever be the work of a poet or a Jinn. Allaah concludes the Surah by saying, **"Only deviated people follow the poets. Do you not see that they wander astray in every valley? And that they say things which they never do? Save for those** (poets) **who believe, do good deeds, remember Allaah abundantly and avenge themselves after being oppressed. Shortly the oppressors will come to know to which place they will return."** [verses 224 to 228]

In this Taraaweeh only a part of Surah Naml is recited. Allaah states that the Qur'aan is **"a guidance and a conveyor of glad tidings for the believers."** In this regard, the Surah proceeds to discuss the epics of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S), Hadhrat Dawood (A.S), Hadhrat Sulaymaan (A.S), the Aad and the Thamud. Allaah opens the Surah by saying, **"These are the verses of the Qur'aan and a clear Book. (It is) a guidance and a conveyor of glad tidings for the believers; those who establish salaah, pay zakaah and are convinced about the Hereafter."** [verse 1, 2 and 3]

Allaah further says that He has beautified the deeds of the kuffaar so that they continue to sin and earn multiple punishment for it. Allaah says about them, **"For such people there shall be a terrible punishment and they will be the worst losers in the Hereafter."** [verse 5] Thereafter, Allaah addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) saying, **"Undoubtedly, you are given the Qur'aan from the Wise, the All Knowing."** [verse 6]

May Allaah grant us all the capacity to follow Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) and may He save us from all sins; especially from those sins that were the cause for other nations to be destroyed. May He also afford us the consciousness to accept the Qur'aan as a fountainhead of guidance and our code of life. Aameen.

The Sixteenth Taraaweeh

This Taraaweeh begins from the last quarter of the 19th para (from verse 7 of Surah Naml) and finishes off at the end of the 20th para (verse 44 of Surah Ankaboot).

Allaah relates the detail incidents of Hadhrat Dawood (A.S) and Hadhrat Sulaymaan (A.S). The stories of these two illustrious Ambiya (A.S) begins with verse 15 where Allaah says, **"Indeed We granted knowledge to Dawood and Sulaymaan."** Amongst the many bounties that Allaah conferred on them was that He taught them the language of the birds and also granted them control over the Jinn, humans, animals and birds. Allaah recounts these incidents so that people may learn lessons and realise the power of Allaah.

END OF 19TH PARA – START OF 20TH PARA.

Allaah also declares, **"Say, 'None in the heavens and the earth has knowledge of the unseen besides Allaah. They do not even know when they will be resurrected** (for the Day of Qiyaamah)**."** [verse 65] None besides Allaah has knowledge of when Qiyaamah will take place. However people are assured that

"Indeed your Rabb knows what their hearts conceal and what they disclose." [verse 74]

Towards the end of the Surah Allaah describes the scene of Qiyaamah when He says, **"The day when the trumpet will be blown and all within the heavens and the earth will be terrified, except those whom Allaah wills. They will all come to Allaah in humility. You will look at the mountains, thinking them to be solid, but they will be passing by like clouds. This is the doing of Allaah, Who perfects everything. Indeed He is Informed of what you do. Whoever brings a good deed, shall receive something better. And they will be safe from the terror of that day. Whoever brings a sin, they will fall on their faces in the Fire. 'You are only recompensed for what you have perpetrated."** [verses 87 to 90]

In concluding the Surah Allaah assures man, **"Your Rabb is not unaware of what you do."** [verse 93] Every person should therefore be wary of whatever he does.

Surah Qasas commences after Surah Shu'araa and recounts the entire incident of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S) and Fir'oun. The Surah also makes mention of Qaaroon and his immense fortune, which caused him to become extremely arrogant. As a result of his attitude Allaah caused the ground to swallow him up along with all his wealth. Allaah then tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he is informed of these narratives so that he may caution the kuffaar. If they take heed, they stand a chance of being saved from Allaah's terrible punishment. If not, they stand to face an awful doom.

Allaah then prompts the kuffaar to think a while. Allaah says, **"Say, 'Tell me. If Allaah makes the night perpetual for you till the Day of Qiyamah, which deity besides Him can bring light to you? Can you not hear?' Say, 'Tell me. If Allaah makes the day perpetual for you till the Day of Qiyamah, which deity besides Him can bring night to you, wherein you may find peace? Can you not see?"** [verses 71/2] Allaah states further in verse 73, **"Due to His mercy, He has created the day and the night for you so that you may find peace**

therein, seek from His bounty, and express your gratitude to Him."

Allaah exhorts his Prophet (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) not to be grieved about the opposition that the kuffaar pose because everything in this world is temporary. To highlight the transitory nature of the effects of this world, Allaah cites the example of Qaaroon. His people advised him saying, **"Do not be boastful, for verily Allaah does not like the boastful ones."** [verse 76]

Allaah says further, **"So he emerged amongst his people in pomp and splendour. Those who desired the world gaped, 'If only we also possessed what Qaaroon has! Undoubtedly, he is extremely fortunate. Those who were granted knowledge said, 'Woe to you! Allaah's rewards are better for the one who believes and does good deeds. Only the patient ones shall receive this."** [verses 79 and 80] As a result of his pride and failure to fulfil the obligatory rights of his riches, Allaah **"plunged Qaaroon and his home within the ground."** [verse 81]

This incident proves that everything besides Allaah shall perish even though a thing may seem very great. The Surah also ends on the note of Tauheed where Allaah says, **"Do not call to another deity with Allaah. There is none worthy of worship besides Him. Everything shall perish besides His Countenance. All decisions rest with Him and to Him shall you all be returned."** [verse 88]

Surah Ankaboot follows Surah Qasas and it beautifully distinguishes between the true Mu'mineen and the Munafiqeen as well as between those who are true and those who are false. The narratives of many Ambiya (A.S) are also related. Allaah begins the Surah by stating, **"Do people think that they will be left to say, 'We believe!' without being tested? We certainly tested those before them, and Allaah will definitely know about those who are true and He will definitely know the liars."** [verses 2 & 3]

Although Allaah has commanded man to be obedient to his parents, Allaah mentions in this Surah that parents should not be

obeyed if they attempt to induce one to forsake Islam. "The creation cannot be obeyed if the Creator would be disobeyed." Allaah says, **"The disbelievers say to the believers, 'Follow our way and we will bear the burden of your sins.' They will not carry any part of their sins. They are certain liars."** [verse 12]

Allaah then cites the incident of Hadhrat Nooh (A.S) who preached to his nation for 950 years. Despite his tireless efforts the vast majority of them refused to accept his message and were eventually drowned in the flood. Allaah then speaks of the annihilation of the nations of Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S), Hadhrat Loot (A.S) and Hadhrat Shu'aib (A.S). There are many lessons that the Mu'mineen may learn from all these narratives.

May Allaah bless us with fear for Him, humility and abstinence. May Allaah save us from the evils of pride, arrogance and boastfulness; and imbue the belief of Tauheed within us. May He grant us the ability to exercise patience when tested and faces with adversities. Aameen.

END OF 20TH PARA – START OF 21ST PARA.

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The Seventeenth Taraaweeh

Till the sixteenth Taraaweeh, one and a quarter paras were being recited nightly. From the 17th Taraaweeh, only one para will be recited nightly. Therefore, this (17th) Taraaweeh will includes the entire 21st para, which is made up of part of Surah Ankaboot, the entire Surah Roum, Surah Luqmaan, Surah Sajdah, and a part of Surah Ahzaab (till verse 30).

Allaah addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) saying. **"Recite that of the Book, which has been revealed to you and establish salaah. Verily salaah forbids from obscenity and evil."** [verse 45]

So that the Ahlul Kitaab (Jews and Christians) can accept Islam, Allaah advises, **"Only debate with the People of the Book with that which is best; save for those of them who are**

unjust. And say, 'We believe in what was revealed to us (the Qur'aan) **and what was revealed to you** (just as well)**. Our deity and your deity is One and we surrender to Him."** [verse 46]

Allaah mentions how strange it is that the kuffaar believe that Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) wrote the Qur'aan whereas they all knew well that he was unlettered. It is obvious that the Qur'aan could have only proceeded from Allaah. Allaah addresses the Mu'mineen saying, **"Oh My believing bondsmen! Indeed my earth is vast, so worship Me only** (wherever you may go)**. Every soul shall taste death, whereafter you people will be returned to Us."** [verse 56/7]

Later in the Surah Allaah discusses Jannah and also mentions that all sustenance comes from Allaah only. Thereafter Allaah says that He will certainly guide aright those who strive in His cause. Allaah says, **"We shall definitely show Our avenues to those who endure suffering in Our cause. Verily Allaah is certainly with those who do good."** [verse 69]
After Surah Ankaboot, Surah Roum begins by telling people that although the Persians defeated the Romans in battle, the Mu'mineen will be pleased to note that the Romans will be victorious within a few years. Thereafter, Allaah cites numerous signs that denote His great power and might. Allaah then asserts that Islam is true and cannot be altered. Allaah adds, **"This is the upright religion, but most people do not know."** [verse 30]

Allaah also announces to people that usurious trade can never be profitable because it is haraam and devoid of blessings. Blessings are in that wealth from which zakaah is paid. Allaah says in verse 39, **"Whatever usury you give to increase people's wealth does not increase in Allaah's sight. Whatever you give in zakaah, seeking Allaah's pleasure, then such people truly multiply (their rewards)."**

Allaah also tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that there will be some people who will never accept the truth despite his most concerted efforts. This is because the seal of ignorance

has been stamped on their hearts. The entire Surah Roum centres around the following three subjects:

1. The purpose behind the creation of everything.
2. The proofs of Tauheed.
3. Islam is a natural endowment.

After Surah Roum, Surah Luqmaan commences by stating, **"These are verses of the Wise Book** (the Qur'aan, which is) **A guidance and mercy for those who do good."** Thereafter, Allaah speaks about another breed of people when He says (in verse 6) that there are those who seek futile pastimes which deviate them from remembering Allaah. Allaah then conveys the message of Tauheed.

Later in the Surah, Allaah speaks about Hadhrat Luqmaan (A.S) and quotes his words of advice. Allaah says, **"We certainly granted wisdom to Luqmaan (inspiring him) to express gratitude to Allaah. Whoever will be grateful to Allaah, expresses gratitude for his own benefit. As for him who is ungrateful, Allaah is certainly Independent, Most Worthy of praise."** [verse 12]

Hadhrat Luqmaan (A.S) never perpetrated shirk and he also enjoined his children never to commit this vile deed. Allaah declares, **"Oh people! Fear Allaah and beware of the day when a father will be of no avail to his son, nor will a child be of any avail to his father."** [verse 33] The Surah also teaches man never to walk with pride, never to turn one's face away from another, and never to raise his voice because the worst of all sounds is that of the donkey. Allaah then repeats the message of Tauheed when He cites various bounties that He has bestowed on man.

Allaah concludes the Surah with the verse: **"Verily the knowledge of Qiyamah is only with Allaah, He sends the rains and knows what is in the wombs. A soul does not know what it will earn tomorrow and does not know which land it will die in. Undoubtedly Allaah is All Knowing, Informed."**

Surah Sajdah begins after Surah Luqmaan and primarily discusses the truth of the Qur'aan and the distinction of man. Allaah remarks that the kuffaar are truly foolish to believe that although Allaah created the heavens, the earth and all of creation, he could not reveal the Qur'aan. Allaah says about these rejecters, **"Who is more unjust than he who is reminded of the verses of his Rabb and then turns away therefrom? We will certainly exact retribution from the criminals."** [verse 22]

Allaah concludes the Surah by telling Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), **"So turn away from them and wait. They are also waiting."** [verse 30]

Allaah then begins Surah Ahzaab by saying, **"Oh Prophet (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)! Fear Allaah and do not follow the disbelievers and the hypocrites. Undoubtedly Allaah is ever the All Knowing, the Wise. Follow what has been revealed to you from your Rabb. Allaah is Ever Informed of what you do."**

Allaah makes it clear in this Surah that he has neither granted any wife the status of her husband's mother nor has He granted any adopted child the status of a biological child. Allaah says that adopted children will retain the name of their biological fathers and should not be referred to as the children of the adoptive father.

Allaah says about Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) and his wives, **"The Prophet (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) has a greater relationship with the believers than even their own selves, and his wives are their mothers."** [verse 6]

In verse 19 Allaah speaks about those people who refuse o participate in jihaad for fear of jihaad itself or for fear of death. Allaah says about them: **"These are the ones who do not believe, so Allaah annihilates their deeds."** Towards the end of the Surah Allaah tells people, **"There is definitely an excellent example in Allaah's messenger** (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) **for the one who fears Allaah and the Last Day, and remembers Allaah abundantly."** [verse 21]

May Allaah make us practise habitually upon the teachings of the Shari'ah and have perfect trust in Him. May He cast us into the mould of Islam and allow us to follow in the footsteps of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Aameen.

The Eighteenth Taraaweeh

The 22nd para is recited in this Taraaweeh.

Referring to the time when Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) was upset with his on some account, Allaah tells them, **"Oh wives of the prophet! You are not like any other women** (but higher in status)**."** [verse 32] Allaah instructs them never to make a display of themselves and to learn the Qur'aan and Sunnah from their homes, which they should teach to others.

Allaah advises that His commands be carried out even though difficulties have to be borne in achieving the same. Allaah then states, **"Muhammed (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) is not the father of any man amongst you, but he is Allaah's messenger and the seal of all prophets."** [verse 40]

In honour of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), Allaah says in verse 56, **"Verily Allaah and his angels shower their special mercies on the Prophet (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Oh you who believe! Convey mercies and salutations upon him."**

Thereafter, Allaah makes mention of numerous laws of marriage, divorce, iddah and hijaab. In verse 70, Allaah commands the Muslims to speak only what is good because this will afford them the capacity to carry out good deeds. Allaah makes it clear that the only road to success is in following the teachings of Allaah and Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). In verse 72 Allaah says that the awesome trust of bearing the Shari'ah was offered to the heavens, the earth and the mountains but they all

shrank from the task. It was only man who was able to bear the responsibility. Allaah curses the kuffaar and Munafiqeen in this Surah, whereafter the Surah closes with mention of Allaah's mercy.

After Surah Ahzaab, Surah Saba begins with the dynamic statement that **"All praise belongs to Allaah, to Whom belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. All praise belongs to Him in the Hereafter as well. He is The Wise, the Informed."** Allaah dispels the foolish altercation of the kuffaar who say that they must be correct in their beliefs and deeds because Allaah has not yet annihilated them with His punishment. Allaah tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he should warn these kuffaar that Allaah's punishment can afflict them at any stage just as it struck the nations of the past. There are lessons to be learnt from these incidents for people with Imaan.

Relating the incidents of various Ambiya (A.S), Allaah begins with the narrative of Hadhrat Dawood (A.S). Allaah made iron soft for him, which he would mould as he pleased. Allaah also subjugated the birds and mountains for him, all of which would hymn Allaah's Dhikr along with him. Allaah made a spring of copper gush forth for Hadhrat Sulaymaan (A.S) and also granted him control over the winds and the jinn.

Allaah speaks about the people of Saba in this Surah, whom Allaah destroyed in a flood because they were ungrateful for the bounties that He bestowed on them.

Surah Faatir follows Surah Saba as the 35th Surah of the Qur'aan. Herein Allaah states that He has created the heavens and the earth without any previous example. Thereafter, Allaah states that He **"made the angels messengers, possessing two, three and four wings. Allaah increases in His creation as He pleases. Verily Allaah has power over all things. There is none to withhold the mercy Allaah opens to people, and there is none to release the mercy that He withholds. He is the Mighty, the Wise."** [verse 1 and 2]

Thereafter, Allaah warns man to beware of Shaytaan's ploys because he beautifies the deeds of people for them so that sin appears to be virtuous to them. Shaytaan must be treated as the avowed enemy he is to man. Speaking about those who spend their wealth for Allaah's pleasure, Allaah says that He will **"grant them their reward in full and increase them from His grace. Verily He is Most Forgiving, Most Appreciative."** [verse 30]

Every being is dependent on Allaah, Who has power to do whatever He pleases. Allaah declares in verse 45, **"If Allaah was to take man to task for whatever he does, Allaah would not leave a single living creature on the face of the earth (because His punishment would destroy them all). But Allaah defers them till an appointed term."**

Surah Yaaseen follows Surah Faatir. Allaah says that that He has revealed the Qur'aan to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) so that he may guide people. However, there are those kuffaar who have veils upon their hearts and will not respond. Regarding them Allaah says, **"It the same to them whether you warn them or you do not warn them. They will never believe. You can only warn him who follows the advice and fears Rahmaan without seeing Him. Give him the glad tidings of forgiveness and a bountiful provision."** [verses 10 and 11]

The concluding verse of this Surah advises, **"Follow those who do not ask any remuneration from you, and who are rightly guided."** [verse 21]

The Nineteenth Taraaweeh

The 23rd para is recited in this Taraaweeh. It includes the remainder of Surah Yaaseen, Surah Saaffaat, Surah Saad and a part of Surah Zumar.

The para begins with words that every person should actually ask himself, **"Why should I not worship the One Who has created me, and to Whom you all shall return?"** [verse 22]

Allaah also declares, **"What anguish about My bondsmen! They mock at every prophet that comes to them. Have they not seen** (or have they forgotten) **how many were the nations that We destroyed before them? They will certainly never return to them. They will all be present before Us collectively"** [verses 30 to 32]

Thereafter, Allaah mentions numerous phenomena that denote His great creative ability. Mention of Jahannam and Jannah follow, when Allaah says, **"Verily the people of Jannah will be joyous in their occupation on this day** (of Qiyaamah)**."** [verse 55] Allaah concludes this glorious Surah by saying, **"Pure is that Being in Whose hand lies the reins of everything, and to Whom you will all be returned."** [verse 83]

Surah Saaffaat follows Surah Yaaseen. Allaah opens the Surah by taking several oaths and declaring that He is the only Master and Controller of the universe and that His system is free from the interference of the Shayaateen. On the Day of Qiyaamah, the Mushrikeen will become fuel for the fire of Jahannam along with their idols and gods.

Allaah then mentions how Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) and his son Hadhrat Isma'eel (A.S) were successful in the trial that Allaah put them through when He commanded Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S) to slaughter Hadhrat Isma'eel (A.S). At the last moment Allaah replaced Hadhrat Isma'eel (A.S) with a ram from Jannah and the deed of sacrificing an animal was made a practice for all Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S)'s progeny to emulate.

After making brief mention of a few Ambiya (A.S), Allaah says, **"Yunus was certainly from the messengers."** [verse 139] Thereafter, Allaah recounts the epic of Hadhrat Yunus (A.S) who grew weary of his people's rejection and left the town without Allaah's permission. When he undertook a journey by sea, a huge fish swallowed him whole. While in the fish's stomach He repented to Allaah and Allaah forgave him. Allaah removed him from the fish's belly and returned him to land.

Surah Saad follows Surah Saaffaat. Allaah speaks of the obstinacy and pride of the Mushrikeen who did not want to accept the truth and refused to even listen to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Allaah says that it is strange that **"They are surprised that a warner has come from amongst them."** [verse 4]

Allaah then reminds man of the various nations of the past that He destroyed on account of their sins so that they do not follow in their footsteps. Allaah also exhorts Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to patiently bear the harassment of the kuffaar. The Surah then proceeds to recount an incident in the life of Hadhrat Dawood (A.S) when Allaah tested him by making him judge a dispute between two persons. When he realised that it was a test from Allaah, he fell down in prostration before Allaah and begged forgiveness.
The incident of Hadhrat Ayyoob (A.S) follows that of Hadhrat Dawood (A.S) and another of Hadhrat Sulaymaan (A.S). Allaah speaks about the severe illness that afflicted Hadhrat Ayyoob (A.S) which he endures with Herculean perseverance. Allaah then talks about certain other Ambiya (A.S), Allaah of whom Allaah says were **"from the very best."** [verse 48]

Thereafter, Allaah mentions that He granted Iblees respite to live till the Day of Qiyaamah. Although he will mislead mankind, he will have no power to deviate those whom Allaah has specially selected.

Surah Zumar commences after Surah Saad and explains that Allaah will not guide people who lie and who refuse to believe. The Surah also emphasises that Allaah has not taken anyone as His son. Allaah is Alone, Omnipotent and does not require anything from the creation. Every person will have to account for his own doings when people are returned to Allaah on the Day of Qiyaamah.

Allaah says that the Qur'aan is a book of advice and guidance which contains subject matter that is clear and without crookedness. By taking heed to its teachings, deviated people may be rightly guided and may save themselves from a grievous punishment.
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The Twentieth Taraaweeh

The 24th para is recited in this Taraaweeh.

Allaah says in the first verse of the para, **"Who can be more unjust than him who lies about Allaah, and falsifies the truth when it comes to him? Is there no abode for the disbelievers in Jahannam? The one who brings the truth and confirms it, these are the people who are abstinent."** [verses 32/3 of Surah Zumar]

Allaah promises that He will assist Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) when He declares in verse 36, **"Is Allaah not Sufficient for His bondsman?"** Allaah also addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) saying, **"Without doubt, We have revealed to you a Book with the truth for the people. Whoever is rightly guided, is guided for his benefit, and whomsoever is misguided, then it is to his own detriment. You have not been sent as a warder over them** (and therefore cannot be held responsible for their deeds)**."** [verse 41]

Allaah emphasises that sustenance proceeds only from Him and that the kuffaar always have a chance to be forgiven if they repent to Allaah sincerely.

Surah Mu'min commences after Surah Zumar. Allaah declares therein, **"This Book is revealed from Allaah, the Mighty, the All Knowing, the Forgiver of sins, Acceptor of repentance, Stern in punishment, and All Powerful. There is none worthy of worship besides Him, and all shall return to Him."** [verses 2 and 3]

In verse 4 Allaah addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as well as the Mu'mineen when He says, **"It is only the disbelievers who argue about Allaah's verses, so let not their travelling about through the lands** (and their apparent might) **deceive you** (because Allaah will soon seize them and they are destined to be fuel for Jahannam)**."**

Allaah urges all Muslims to worship Allaah only and to abstain from shirk even though the kuffaar and Mushrikeen detest this. Allaah sent the Ambiya (A.S) to warn people of the difficult Day of Qiyaamah when every deed will be apparent. It will be a day of justice and every person will receive the full recompense for whatever good or evil s/he did. Allaah's judgement will be binding and He will not be the least unjust to anyone.

Allaah declares in verse 51**, "We shall definitely assist Our messengers and those who believe in this worldly life, as well as on the Day witnesses will stand** (the Day of Qiyaamah)**."** It will therefore be wisest for people to seek refuge with Allaah and bear in mind that **"The blind and seeing cannot be equal, neither can those who believe and do good deeds be equal to the sinner. Little is it that they take heed."** [verse 58]

Surah HaaMeem Sajdah begins after Surah Mu'min. Allaah says in verse 4 of the Surah that the Qur'aan is both **"a bearer of glad tidings** (for the righteous Mu'mineen) **and a warner** (for the others)**."** Allaah instructs Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to announce to the people that he is also a human being like themselves, the only difference being that revelation comes to him. It is this revelation that stresses **"that your Deity is only One. So remain devoted to Him, and seek forgiveness from Him."** [verse 6]

Allaah also exhorts Muslims to pay their zakaah and to have a firm conviction in the advent of Qiyaamah, when their limbs will testify against them. Allaah also advises Muslims to seek refuge with Allaah whenever Shaytaan attempts to mislead them because Allaah is All Hearing and All Knowing. Only Allaah is worthy of worship.

The Twenty First Taraaweeh

The entire 25th para is recited in this Taraaweeh.

Allaah makes it clear that He is the only One Who knows when Qiyaamah will take place. Allaah then speaks of man's ingratitude when He says, **"When We favour man, he is averse and turns away. But when hardship afflicts him, he becomes one of vast prayers."** [verse 51, Surah HaaMeem Sajdah]

Those who doubt the advent of Qiyaamah should bear in mind that Allaah has the might to do as He pleases. Surah Shura begins after Surah HaaMeem Sajdah and Allaah tells the Mushrikeen that there is nothing astonishing about the fact that He teaches His book to the Ambiya (A.S) via revelation. Allaah adds that the sins of the Mushrikeen are so grave that it would be no wonder if the severity of these sins should cause the sky to come crashing down on them. They are also warned that their abode shall be Jahannam where there will be none to assist them.

Allaah instructs Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to tell the people, **"Say, 'I ask of you no recompense** (for my preaching)**, save for the love between relatives."** [verse 23] This obligatory love demands that the kuffaar at least refrain from harming Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Allaah will ensure that people are rewarded in full for their good deeds. In verse 43 Allaah lauds the persevering people when He says, **"Whoever will exercise patience and pardon, that will certainly be of the most resolute matters."**

Allaah says further that it is inappropriate that He speaks directly to any human being. Allaah says, **"It is only appropriate for a human that Allaah speaks to him by means of inspiration, or from behind a veil, or that He sends a messenger who conveys the revelation by Allaah's command, as He pleases. Verily Allaah is Exalted, the Wise."** [verse 51]

Surah Zukhruf begins after Surah Shura. Allaah tells the Mushrikeen that they should not fool themselves by thinking that revelation of the Qur'aan will cease because of their disobedience and sins. Allaah has never stopped sending Ambiya (A.S) or revelation on account of the kuffaar's evil. On the contrary, Allaah kept sending Ambiya (A.S) with revelation, as a result of which the evil of the kuffaar was crushed.

Allaah also stresses that He has no children and that none has the ability to intercede on behalf of those who have gone astray.

Surah Dukhaan follows Surah Zukhruf as the 44th Surah of the Qur'aan. Allaah states, **"We have revealed it** (the Qur'aan) **on a blessed night. Verily We are the Warners. The decision of every matter of wisdom is passed on this night as a command proceeding from Us."** [verses 3, 4, 5]

Listening and reciting the Qur'aan draws Allaah's mercy on condition that a person has perfect conviction. Everything is within Allaah's kingdom and He alone gives life and death. When punishment overtakes people because of their sins, they cry out to Allaah saying, **"O our Rabb! Remove this punishment from us and we will surely believe."** [verse 12] However, when Allaah removes the punishment they do not take heed but revert to their former ways of disbelief. However, the Hereafter shall certainly arrive when they will be cast into Jahannam where **"the tree of Zaqqoom shall be food for the sinful."** [verse 43/4]

Surah Dukhaan is followed by Surah Jaathiya where Allaah mentions many signs of His might. Amongst these are the creation of man, the creation of the animals, the alternation of night and day, the flourishing of dead ground after rains, the turning of the winds and the sailing of the ships. All these phenomena are for man's benefit and will teach him about Allaah's greatness if he takes the time to reflect.

The last two verses of the Surah declare: **"Allaah praise is for Allaah, the Rabb of the heavens and the earth; the Rabb of the universe. To Him belongs all majesty in the heavens and the earth; and He is the Mighty, the Wise."** [verses 36/7]

May Allaah grant us the ability to recognise His might and may He bless us with the wealth of conviction.

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The Twenty Second Taraaweeh

The 26th para is recited in this Taraaweeh.

This para commences with Surah Ahqaaf, wherein Allaah states that He has created the universe for a stipulated period of time only. The system of the universe functions according to Allaah's perfect plan, yet the kuffaar still adamantly oppose the truth. Allaah commands man to treat his parents kindly, reminding him that his mother bore him with hardship and delivered him with hardship. When this man grows up to be righteous he will express gratitude to Allaah, whereupon Allaah will accept his deeds and forgive him for his shortcomings. However, Allaah will punish those who oppose their parents and disobey them.

Thereafter, Allaah makes mention of the time when a group of the Jinn listened to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) reciting the Qur'aan and then conveyed the message to their people.

Surah Muhammed begins after Surah Ahqaaf. Allaah says that the deeds of people will be destroyed when, apart from adhering to kufr, they also enjoin others to do the same. Allaah will also forgive the sins of those who possess Imaan and practise on the guidance given to them. In addition to this Allaah will also correct their deeds.

Allaah also commands the Muslims to wage jihaad till the enemy surrenders. Those people who are averse towards jihaad after Imaan and guidance has come to them, then such people have definitely fallen prey to Shaytaan because Shaytaan makes evil deeds seem appealing and makes people entertain hopes of long lives. Eventually, the deeds of such people are destroyed. Allaah also tells people to ponder about the verses of the Qur'aan because this will illuminate their hearts and their minds.

Surah Fatah follows Surah Muhammed (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). In this Surah, Allaah speaks about the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah which turned out to be a tremendous victory for the Muslims. Allaah says in verse 10, "Verily those who pledge allegiance to you [Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)] have actually pledged allegiance to Allaah. Allaah's hand is above

theirs." Allaah adds that those who violate their pledge and turn away from jihaad become deserving of a terrible punishment.

Allaah declares in the final verse of this Surah, "Muhammed (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) is Allaah's messenger and those with him are hard on the disbelievers, yet compassionate towards each other." [verse 29]

Surah Hujuraat, which follows Surah Fatah, contains teachings that are pertinent to good character. The Surah teaches Muslims the etiquette of social interaction and good manners. The Surah specially emphasises the refinement of manners to be displayed when in the presence of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) and near his rooms. In fact, failure to observe etiquette in Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)'s presence may lead to one's deeds being rejected. The Surah highlights the importance of cordial and amicable behaviour towards each other and equates backbiting to eating the flesh of a brother's corpse.

The next Surah to follow is Surah Qaaf, wherein man is told that Allaah is closer to him than his own jugular vein. Allaah also reminds man that two angels have been appointed to record the deeds of every person. These records will be subjected to scrutiny on the Day of Qiyaamah.

Surah Dhaariyaat begins thereafter. Allaah tells man that Qiyaamah is inevitable and that every person will receive the recompense due to him/her for every good and evil deed committed. The evil ones will suffer punishment while the righteous Mu'mineen will enjoy the bounties of Jannah.

Allaah describes the people of Imaan as those who sleep very little, who awaken during the early hours of the morning to beseech Allaah for forgiveness, and who spend their wealth to assist those who ask of them as well as those who do not ask. The incidents of certain Ambiya (A.S) are then mentioned briefly.

The Twenty Third Taraaweeh

The 27th para is recited in this Taraaweeh.

The para opens with the incident of Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S), when some angels visited him in the guise of humans and informed him of the imminent birth of his son Hadhrat Is'haaq (A.S). When he asked them what their mission was, they replied that they were out to rain a shower of stones upon the nation of Hadhrat Loot (A.S). They were therefore sent to punish these people.

Allaah then relates the incidents of Hadhrat Moosa (A.S), the Aad, the Thamud and the nation of Hadhrat Nooh (A.S). The Surah expounds Allaah's greatness, establishes Tauheed and Risaalah and then describes the purpose of man's creation in the following words: **"I have only created man and jinn to worship Me."** [verse 56] Allaah stresses that He sustains all and does not require sustenance from anyone.

Surah Toor commences next wherein Allaah warns the rejecters of the Day of Qiyaamah that the day will be so severe that the heavens and the earth will tremble and mountains will fly about like cotton-wool. The kuffaar will be shoved into Jahannam and the punishment will be severe for those who falsify the truth. It is only foolish people who will harass a messenger who only wishes well for them. Those who reject the truth are really evil in nature. Allaah urges Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to be patient and assures him that he will certainly be assisted.

Surah Najm thereafter makes mention of the miraculous journey of Mi'raaj. Allaah says that Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) has neither gone astray nor erred and that he drew so close to Allaah that there scarcely remained the distance between two ends of a bow between them. Allaah makes it clear that Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)'s eyes did not deceive him and that he saw everything clearly. Allaah then spoke certain things to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) which no third being has any knowledge of.

Allaah tells people that that they should never doubt the words of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) (especially on the occasion of Mi'raaj) because **"he does not speak of his own**

will. Everything he says is revelation that descends to him." [verse 4]

In Surah Qamar thereafter, Allaah speaks about Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)'s miracle of splitting the moon; a miracle that foretold the eventual defeat of the kuffaar. Allaah says that the kuffaar are unlikely to mend their ways because they refer to the miracles of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as magic. However, the time is nigh when they will hang their heads in remorse and flee from the truth.

Surah Rahmaan follows Surah Qamar as the 55th Surah of the Qur'aan. In this Surah, Allaah enumerates a large number of bounties that He has bestowed on man. Throughout the Surah Allaah repeatedly asks, **"Which bounty of your Rabb will you deny?"** Amongst the other bounties, Allaah speaks of man's creation, the knowledge Allaah granted man, and the creation of everything else that is of use to man. By identifying all these bounties, man is introduced to Allaah. The Surah also describes the Hereafter and highlights the fact that everything besides Allaah is perishable. Allaah asserts, **"Everything on earth shall perish but the countenance of your Majestic and Benevolent Rabb shall remain."** [verse 27]

Surah Waaqi'ah describes the advent of Qiyaamah, illustrating that the records of righteous people's deeds will be given in their right hands, while those of the kuffaar and sinners will be given in their left hands from behind their backs. The Surah states that the diet of the people of Jahannam shall be a poisonous tree and scalding water. Allaah terminates the Surah by drawing man's attention to the fact that the Qur'aan is great blessing of Allaah, which has an elevated position in the Lawhul Mahfoodh (The Protected Tablet) in the heavens.

Surah Hadeed follows Surah Waaqi'ah by stating that every creation glorifies Allaah. Allaah exhorts Muslims to spend in His way, which is regarded as a loan yielding a minimum of ten times the reward. Pious people neither become despondent when afflicted with adversities nor do they behave boastfully and arrogantly when enjoying prosperity. According to their deeds,

these are the ones who will attain the status of Siddeeq and Shaheed. Allaah also tells the Ahlul Kitaab that Allaah bestows His grace and favour upon whomsoever He wills.

The Twenty Fourth Taraaweeh

The 28th para is recited in this Taraaweeh.

Surah Mujaadala begins this para. Allaah states that it is foolish for any person to refer to his wife as his mother (as a method of separating from her). If a man does this, it will be haraam for him to cohabit with his wife till he pays the required Kaffaara. The Kaffaara is that he frees a slave (male or female), fasts for two consecutive months or feeds sixty poor people.

Thereafter, Allaah teaches the etiquette of gatherings and warns people against hosting secret meetings to plot against Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) or to commit other sins. Allaah says that such meetings are amongst the acts of Shaytaan.

In Surah Hashar thereafter, Allaah states that the true Mu'mineen are those people who assist the Muslims who migrate for Allaah and His Prophet (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). They are people who do not straiten their hearts despite living in straitened circumstances. Rather, they give preference to others above themselves. The Munafiqeen are completely different because they display the traits of Shaytaan. They encourage people to perpetrate evil deeds and then excuse themselves saying that they have nothing to do with these people. Allaah urges people to take heed to the advice of the Qur'aan, which is so mighty that it can crush mountains under its weight.

Surah Mumtahina begins after Surah Hashar. Allaah tells the Mu'mineen in this Surah that they should terminate all secretive contact with the kuffaar after migrating to Madinah. The kuffaar are enemies to the Muslims and will never be their allies. A Muslim can never trust a kaafir because the ambition of the kaafir is to convert the Muslim into a kaafir like himself/herself. Allaah

also states that the faith of a woman should be tested when she migrates to the Muslims. If she is found to be sincere, she should be allowed to remain amongst the Muslims.

Addressing the Mu'mineen in Surah Saff, Allaah admonishes them for claiming to do such things that they have not done. This is an extremely serious crime in Allaah’s sight. Allaah loves those Mu'mineen who stand together like a fortified wall when facing the enemy in jihaad. Allaah then quotes Hadhrat Isa (A.S) who prophesised the advent of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to the Bani Israa'eel; referring to Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as “Ahmed”. Allaah terminates the Surah by assuring the Mu'mineen that the kuffaar will never be able to extinguish Allaah’s light and that He will definitely grant them victory over their enemies.

In Surah Jumu’ah, Allaah explicitly states, **“O you who believe! When you are called for salaah on the day of Jumu’ah (Friday) then hasten towards Allaah’s remembrance and leave all trade. This is best for you if you only knew. So when the salaah has been completed then spread out on earth and seek from Allaah’s bounty** (sustenance) **and remember Allaah in abundance so that you may succeed.”** [verses 9 and 10] The concluding verse of the Surah states: **“Allaah is the Best Sustainer”**.

Allaah addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) in Surah Munafiqoon, warning him to beware of them. Allaah says that the words and deeds of the Munafiqeen contradict their thoughts and feelings. They falsely take solemn oaths in Allaah’s name whereas they are devoid of Imaan.

In Surah Taghaabun Allaah states that only He created everyone. Allaah made some people kuffaar and made others Mu'mineen with wealth and children as tests for them. Allaah will forgive those people who are rightly guided.

Allaah mentions in Surah Talaaq that husbands should only divorce their wives while the wives are not menstruating. The Iddah should be meticulously observed and it will be regarded as an act of immorality if a woman has to emerge from her home

during the Iddah. The Iddah of a non-menstruating divorcee is three months, while the Iddah of a pregnant divorcee will terminate as soon as she delivers. The husband will have to maintain his pregnant wife after the divorce until she delivers his child.

Addressing Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) in Surah Tahreem, Allaah tells him not to forsake Allaah's bounties for the sake of his wives. Allaah also tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he should pay the Kaffaara to be absolved from his vow. Allaah cautions that any person who wishes to oppose Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) will have to face the resistance of Allaah, Hadhrat Jibra'eel (A.S) and all the pious Muslims at large.

The Twenty Fifth Taraaweeh

The 29th para is recited in this Taraaweeh.

Allaah says in Surah Mulk that there is none to replace the innumerable bounties of His if He should ever snatch them away from people. People should therefore trust in Allaah only because He has created both life and death and only He controls them.

Surah Qalam makes it clear that the character of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) is the highest in calibre. Allaah also instructs Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to exercise patience and not to supplicate to Allaah in anger, as Hadhrat Yunus (A.S) did. The Surah also warns the kuffaar about the punishment they stand to face in this world as well as in the Hereafter.

A startling description of Qiyaamah is given in Surah Haaqa, where Allaah also speaks of the punishment that the kuffaar will receive and the rewards that will accrue to the pious. Allaah concludes the Surah by stating that the Qur'aan is definitely a revelation from Allaah and neither a composition of a poet nor the ramblings of a fortune-teller.

In Surah Ma'aarij Allaah says that man is a weak creature who becomes perplexed when facing any adversity and miserly when enjoying good fortune. Allaah warns all miserly people who hoard their wealth that they should beware of the terrible fire of Jahannam which will strip off their skins.

Surah Nooh recounts the story of Hadhrat Nooh (A.S) who tirelessly preached to his people for a long time. However, the wretched people refused to accept his message and relentlessly opposed him. Constrained by their incorrigible attitude, Hadhrat Nooh (A.S) eventually prayed to Allaah to destroy them. As a result of this they were drowned in a deluge which only spared the faithful ones with Hadhrat Nooh (A.S) in the ark.

Surah Jinn speaks of the praises that some Jinn lauded about the Qur'aan when they heard Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) reciting it. They believed in the Qur'aan and attested to Allaah's oneness. The Surah also makes it clear that only Allaah possesses knowledge of the unseen. Of course, Allaah does impart a bit of this knowledge to His Ambiya (A.S) by means of divine revelation.

In Surah Muddathir, Allaah addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as the one who is shrouded in a blanket. Allaah commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to propagate Islam and to hymn the praises of Allaah's glory and grandeur. Allaah also commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to abstain from all impurities and to behave kindly towards people without expecting anything in return. As in many previous Surahs, Allaah urges Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to patiently endure the harassment of the kuffaar without retaliation. The Surah also stresses that the Qur'aan is a book of guidance that will benefit those people whom Allaah leads aright.

With a different word, Allaah again addresses Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as one shrouded in a blanket. Allaah commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to stand in salaah for half the night or less, and to recite the Qur'aan in slow measured tones. Worshipping Allaah during the night is an effective means of purifying the soul and readily accepted by Allaah. Allaah also encourages zakaah and spending in charity because any good deed will be of tremendous benefit in the Hereafter.

In Surah Qiyaamah Allaah instructs Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he should not exert himself to immediately repeat the words of revelation when it is revealed to him. He was to listen attentively, whereafter Allaah would ensure that he remembered everything.

Allaah says in Surah Dahar that He instilled the capacity to discern between right and wrong in every person. Man therefore has the choice to either be grateful to Allaah or ungrateful. However, the ungrateful will have to suffer punishment for their ingratitude while the grateful will be immensely rewarded with the eternal bliss of Jannah. Allaah lauds the Mu'mineen who, despite their own need, assist the needy without expecting remuneration or even a word of thanks in return.

The para concludes with Surah Mursalaat, which confirms that Qiyaamah will definitely take place. It will be a day when Allaah’s judgement will be decisive and binding. Whoever wishes to be obedient shall be such. On the other hand, those people whose evil deeds have surrounded them shall remain rebellious and will have to face the punishment for their deeds.

The Twenty Sixth Taraaweeh

More than half of the 30th para will be recited in this Taraaweeh (i.e. till Surah Qadr, the 97th Surah of the Qur'aan).

In Surah Naba (Surah Amma), Allaah says that the punishment of Jahannam has been prepared for those people who deny the truth of Islam. When the trumpet is sounded for the Day of Qiyaamah, the skies will be divided into many roads through which people will pass in droves towards the Plain of Resurrection. The deeds of every person will be disclosed and Allaah will decide what punishment or rewards every person will deserve.

Surah Naazi'aat follows Surah Naba with the message that people will regard their lives in this world to be a mere morning or evening when they face the torturously long Day of Qiyaamah. The severity of the Day of Qiyaamah will cause people's heart to tremble. They will recall their deeds of this world and will regret whatever they did because Jahannam will be shown to them.

In the subsequent Surahs Allaah tells Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that people with affluence and authority are beguiled by what they have and therefore have a diminished capacity for accepting good counsel. On the other hand, poor people tend to accept more readily. Therefore, devote more attention to those who have more fear for Allaah so that they may attain spiritual purity.

When Qiyaamah will take place, none shall be of assistance to another; even though they may be brothers, parents, children or spouses. Every person will be too concerned about his own predicament to be worried about another. The faces of the Mu'mineen and the pious will be resplendent on that day while the faces of the kuffaar and sinners will be darkened.

Allaah points out to people that they will have to tread the straight path to be saved from the anguish and suffering of the Day of Qiyaamah. On the Day of Qiyaamah the sky will be rent asunder, bodies will rise from their graves, the stars will plummet down and the oceans will be ablaze. Every person will be confronted by his deeds on the Plain of Resurrection when none will want to know another.

In Surah Mutaffifeen Allaah condemns those who cheat when weighing and measuring, and warns them of a terrible

punishment. Allaah cautions mankind to beware of the day when they will all rise from their graves and stand before Allaah to account for every deed. On that day it will be the Mu'mineen who will have a turn to laugh at the kuffaar who scoffed at them in this world.

The sky will be cleaved open when the trumpet is sounded and corpses will be flung from their graves. Whereas the pious shall be quickly relieved of the formalities of the Day of Qiyaamah, the sinful ones will be flung into the fire of Jahannam. These were the very people who thought that they will never be returned to Allaah.

Allaah says further that those who harass believing men and women without repenting afterwards shall suffer a terrible torment in the Hereafter. Allaah also mentions that the Qur'aan is a lofty book that is preserved in the Lawhul Mahfoodh. The Qur'aan distinguishes between right and wrong and those who still adamantly adhere to the wrong shall be only granted a little respite.

Allaah commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to glorify His praises and assures him that he will never forget the Qur'aan. Allaah further instructs Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to continue propagating the Deen for Allaah shall open up avenues of ease for him. Allaah urges people to ponder over Allaah's creation so that they may recognise Him. Allaah says, **"Have they not looked how the camel is created? And how the sky has been elevated? And how the mountains have been rooted? And how the earth has been levelled?"** [Surah Ghaashiya, verses 17 to 20]

All these signs are for people to take heed before they are taken to task on the Day of Qiyaamah. Allaah admonishes man for his excessive preoccupation in material wealth because it leads him to abuse inheritance and refuse help to the poor and orphans. However, Allaah has granted man the capacity to do good and refrain from evil. Therefore, whoever purifies his soul will be successful, while those who are negligent thereof will be at a permanent loss.

Allaah advises people to spend their wealth only for His pleasure and for no other motives. None should be proud about being able to do good because only Allaah grants people the ability to lend a helping hand to the needy. Allaah assures Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that Allaah will soon confer on him a bounty that will please him and that he should never feel that Allaah has forsaken him because Allaah has always been there for him. Allaah has illuminated his heart, alleviated his worries and elevated his name. Allaah consoles Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) [as well as all Muslims at large] that ease always follows hardship. Therefore, a person's attention should always focus on Allaah.

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The Twenty Seventh Taraaweeh

The recitation of the Qur'aan is completed in this Taraaweeh, which commences from Surah Bayyinah (the 98th Surah of the Qur'aan).

Allaah is pleased with the righteous and they are pleased with Him because they are the best of Allaah's creation. As for the evildoers, they are the worst of Allaah's creation. On the Day of Qiyaamah, Allaah will be so just that even a good deed the size of an atom will be rewarded and a sin just as small will also not pass unnoticed.

Allaah says that man acknowledges that he has an ungrateful nature, but his intense love for wealth does not permit him to mend his ways. Allaah pleads with mankind to be mindful of the Day of Qiyaamah because they can never fathom the flaming inferno of Jahannam. Man is reminded that he will have to answer for the wealth that he possesses, which makes him negligent of his duties in this world. Besides the righteous Mu'mineen, the rest of mankind is at a loss.

Allaah warns man that every tale-carrier and miser is destined for Jahannam. In Surah Feel, Allaah illustrates how He used little birds with pebbles to destroy the army of elephants that Abrahaa brought to demolish the Kaa'ba. In the next Surah, Allaah tells

the Quraish that they should worship Him only because it was Him who made their city a sanctuary of peace.

In Surah Maa'oon, Allaah condemns those who rebuke orphans and the poor, who are vain and miserly. These are the ones who remain negligent of the salaah. Allaah consoles Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) by telling him not to let the taunts of the kuffaar affect him because it will be the very same wretch who will be without progeny and nameless in history. Allaah urges Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to continue performing salaah and offering sacrifices because Allaah shall soon award him with the pond of Kawthar as a gift in the Hereafter.

In Surah Kaafiroon, Allaah clearly distinguishes between the Mu'mineen and the kuffaar so that none is confused for the other. Allaah makes mention of the culmination of Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)'s mission in Surah Nasr and commands Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to engage in excessive glorification and praise of Allaah. Surah Lahab curses Abu Lahab and his wife because the couple harmed Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) immensely. Surah Ikhlaas declares, **"Say, 'He is Allaah, the One. Allaah is Independent. He is neither the child of anyone nor has He any children. There is none comparable to Him."**

Surah Falaq is an invocation to Allaah for His protection and makes reference to the witchcraft that was intended to harm Rasululllaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Finally, Surah Naas invokes Allaah's protection against Shaytaan's instigation and traps.

For Your Information

The Seven Manaazil of the Qur'aan

Manzil No.	Names and Numbers of the Surahs in the Manzil		Total No. of Surahs in the Manzil
	From Surah:	**Till Surah:**	
1.	Faatiha (1)	Nisaa (4)	4
2.	Maa'idah (5)	Taubah (9)	5
3.	Yunus (10)	Nahl (16)	7
4.	Bani Israa'eel (17)	Furqaan (25)	9
5.	Shu'araa (26)	Yaaseen (36)	11
6.	Saaffaat (37)	Hujuraat (49)	13
7.	Qaaf (50)	Naas (114)	65

The Count of I'raab (Vowels and Diacritical Marks) in the Qur'aan.

The I'raab	Number of times it appears in the Qur'aan
Fat'ha (Zabar)	53 242
Kasra (Zer)	39 582

The I’raab	Number of times it appears in the Qur'aan
Dhamma (Pesh)	8 804
Madd	1 771
Tashdeed	1 252
Nuqta (Dots)	105 684

The Count of Arabic Letters in the Qur'aan

No.	Letter	No. of times it appears in the Qur'aan
1.	Alif ( )	48 872
2.	Baa ( )	11 228
3.	Taa ( )	1 199
4.	Thaa ( )	1 276
5.	Jeem ( )	3 273
6.	Haa ( )	973
7.	Khaa ( )	2 416
8.	Daal ( )	5 642
9.	Dhaal ( )	4 697
10.	Raa ( )	11 793
11.	Zaa ( )	1 590
12.	Seen ( )	5 891
13.	Sheen ( )	2 253
14.	Saad ( )	2 013
15.	Dhaad ( )	1 607

No.	Letter	No. of times it appears in the Qur'aan
16.	Taa ( )	1 274
17.	Dzhaa ( )	842
18.	Ain ( )	92 200
19.	Ghain ( )	2 408
20.	Faa ( )	8 499
21.	Qaaf ( )	6 813
22.	Kaaf ( )	9 522
23.	Laam ( )	3 432
24.	Meem ( )	26 535
25.	Noon ( )	26 560
26.	Waaw ( )	25 536
27.	Haa ( )	19 070
28.	Laam Alif ( )	3 720
29.	Hamza ( )	4 115
30.	Yaa ( )	25 919

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